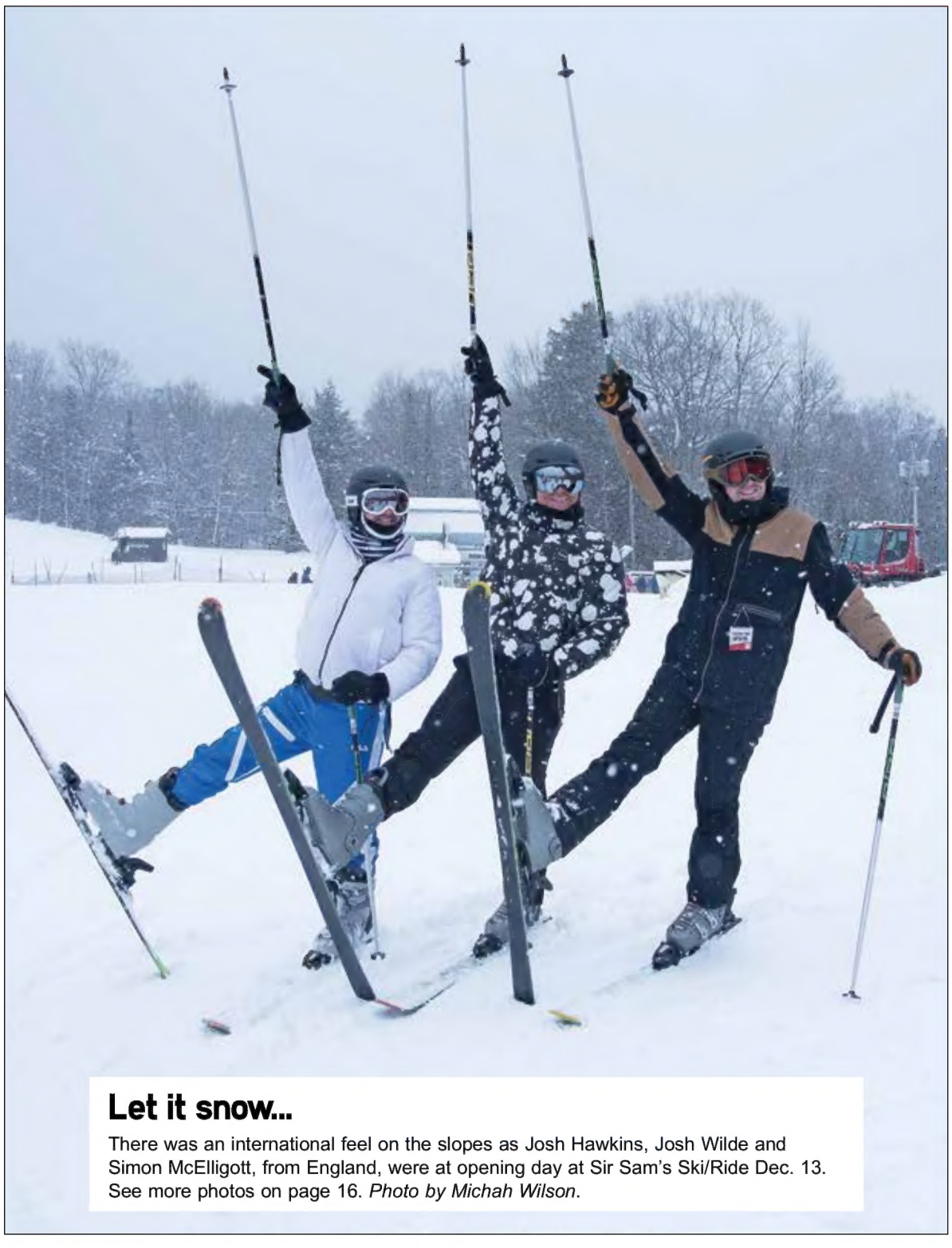
The Highlander

Thursday Dec 18 2025 | Issue 720

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION - WE'RE BACK JAN 8 FREE



Let it snow...

There was an international feel on the slopes as Josh Hawkins, Josh Wilde and Simon McElligott, from England, were at opening day at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride Dec. 13. See more photos on page 16. *Photo by Michah Wilson*.

Minden Hills unveils strong mayor budget

By Lisa Gervais

For the first time in Haliburton County history, a mayor has prepared a township budget, along with staff, under the Strong Mayors act.

The Minden Hills draft budget was tabled at a Dec. 15 special council meeting.

Mayor Bob Carter said it was his "privilege" to present the proposed budget, adding, "2026 will be a challenging year for Minden Hills. Municipal government must sustain essential programs and services and rebuild aging infrastructure whilst ensuring that our tax rates remain affordable for our citizens."

He noted the township will receive "welcome" additional funding from the province in 2026, but this is offset by an 11 per cent increase in OPP costs, "and costs continue to rise on all fronts."

Facing these challenges, Carter said staff had worked "diligently" to review and examine expenditures and service levels in every department – coming up with a proposed 3.95 per cent tax increase for 2026. They are also looking at a two per cent increase for water, and three per cent, for wastewater.

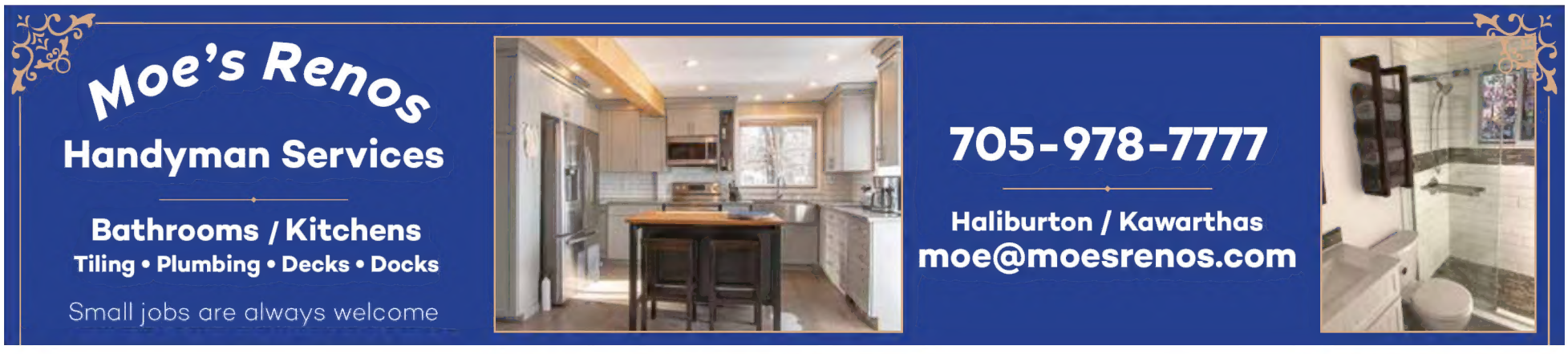
"This increase includes: enhanced service levels; a robust capital expenditure program focusing on infrastructure; a new community centre in Lochlin; 1.5 per cent put aside for future capital needs and maintaining healthy reserves to ensure fiscal sustainability. This budget strikes a balance between investment for now and the future, fiscal responsibility and affordability for the people of Minden Hills," the top elected official said.

The total tax-supported budget is $12.32 million – with a 4.95 per cent municipal levy increase, comprising 2.77 per cent for municipal services; 0.36 per cent for dedicated capital investment; and 1.82 per cent for OPP costs.

It represents a residential property tax increase of $18.46 per $100,000 of assessment. For commercial properties, the jump is $27.37 per $100,000 of assessment.

No members of the public attended the meeting in-person or provided written comments, prompting Coun. Tammy McKelvey to ask that in future, "could we have the public participation later

Continued **'Sweeping'** on page 2



Highlander news

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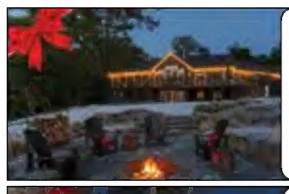

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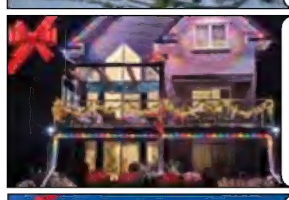

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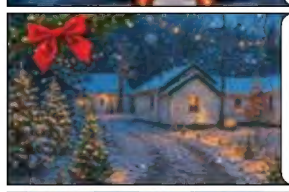

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SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

Staff prepared the draft budget in consultation with Mayor Bob Carter. *File.*

Sweeping new powers for mayor

Continued from page 1

on in the process Let's face it; it's 10 days 'till Christmas. We're all a little bit busy. They don't have their heads around next year's tax bill at this point in time."

Some of the suggested spends include a new bulldozer, heavy duty pick-up truck, and half-ton pick-up truck; adding 48 niches to the columbarium at 12 Mile Cemetery; new lighting for the Minden Riverwalk; a new foot bridge for Snowdon Park; a new Lochlin Hall building; fixing up downtown sidewalks and installing a crosswalk in the village core; implementing an organic recycling program; and finishing the Scotch Line transfer station.

Under roads, parts of Bethel, Blairhampton, Nichols, Salerno Lake, Irondale, Sedgwick Road East and West, and Francis will receive road resurfacing/double surface treatment.

In the proposed budget summary, staff and Carter said, "within the proposed 3.95 per cent overall tax rate increase (4.95 per cent levy increase), we have the foundation for a well composed municipal budget. There are no service level cuts. In fact, there are proposed service level enhancements with the addition of a resource in public works roads department (for better winter maintenance and seasonal road repairs) and in the building department (for in-house septic inspection program).

Council was not enamoured with the new process that unfolded during a nearly nine hour meeting this past Monday. McKelvey asked if Carter was sure he could not waive the requirement for a strong mayors budget. Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said it was the most difficult budget process she had experienced in her 19 years on council.

Under the Strong Mayors act, the mayor is responsible for preparing and proposing a budget to council by Feb. 1 of each year. If not, councll shall prepare and adopt a budget. CAO Cynthia Fletcher said staff would summarize and circulate changes made at Monday's meeting. When they meet again, Jan. 6, she said council could officially pass, by resolution, any formal amendments.

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Dysart unpacks tale of two crosswalks

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Legion president Mike Waller said he isn't giving up in his fight to have a crosswalk installed on Mountain Street. *File.*

A new pedestrian crosswalk helping people manoeuver Highland Street between the township docks and restaurant Hook, Line and Sinker could be coming in the new year, though Dysart et al council has shot down a similar proposal for Mountain Street, in front of the Haliburton Legion.

In May, council asked public works director Rob Camelon to investigate whether crosswalks were necessary in either location. He told elected officials during a Dec. 9 meeting that traffic operations studies were completed in both spots, by Asurza Engineers, in November.

"They are recommending a pedestrian crossover be placed… at the boat launch, which is the opposite of what the last study indicated 10 years ago," Camelon said.

The issue had been brought forward by coun. Pat Casey earlier this summer, with the Ward 1 representative saying he was worried about public safety, with people routinely dodging traffic to cross the road from the parking lot to the restaurant.

Camelon said Asurza found a crosswalk would be better placed on the road immediately in front of Hook, Line and Sinker, rather than at the intersection of Highland and York. He said the engineer did state, though, that there's a case for installing traffic lights at Highland and York.

"There is a delay for traffic turning left, southbound, onto York Street from Highland. Over the next 10 years, that is expected to get worse," Camelon said.

Typically, traffic control devices are kept at least 200 metres apart, but Camelon said the engineer noted a need for both the traffic lights and crosswalk. Council opted to pursue a design for the crosswalk, but not the lights. Camelon asked that the design work be completed to incorporate all of Highland Street to Maple Avenue, as the road is nearing the point where it needs to be rehabilitated.

Highland Street was last resurfaced in 2020, with Camelon saying he hoped to get seven years out of it.

"We're entering year six of that surface now, so we need to be thinking about this soon anyway," Camelon said.

Council approved getting cost estimates for a design, with Camelon estimating the project could cost around $100,000.

Mayor Murray Fearrey wondered if the township could hold off ordering any new equipment, such as overhead lights, asking if council should be thinking about redesigning the intersection at Halbiem Crescent for traffic lights. He suggested the crosswalk equipment in place now could be moved to Highland Street.

"Eventually, whether we like it or not, we'll have to close Wallings Road. There's potential for about 100 housing units in there, between the old [Ministry of Natural Resources] and one other [vacant] property," Fearrey said, noting the vehicles are "going to have to go out through Halbiem and that will require lights [installed for that] as you can hardly make a left hand turn out of there now."

The mayor said the County has stated it will not assist financially in any redesign of Wallings Road, Halbiem Crescent and the proposed entrance to the 92.5-acres the town owns on County Road 21. He said a decision may be required soon.

"There's an offer coming on that land on Wallings, but they can't do anything with it because they can't get people off that road. It's too bad. We've got so much development that could happen, but roads [are preventing it]," Fearrey said.

Legion crosswalk no-go

Camelon said it was Asurza's recommendation not to proceed with a crosswalk on Mountain Street, despite Haliburton Legion president Mike Waller strongly advocating for one.

"The report recommends a pedestrian crossover not be placed mid-block in front of the Royal Canadian Legion, just because of the proximity between Dysart and Maple avenues," Camelon said. "It goes back to the desire to keep traffic control systems 200 metres apart throughout town."

He noted Asurza did recommend installing crosswalks in front of town hall, stretching across both Mountain Street and Maple Avenue. Camelon said that would also require that intersection becoming a four-way stop, though he foresees that being a problem.

"I do have concerns that truck traffic may not be able to navigate that corner if we put a four-way in there," Camelon said. "I want to get comments from the MTO on this, see what they have to say and then, from a geometric design, make it work on paper if we can. If we can't, I think we're back to square one."

Waller told *The Highlander* he was disappointed in the decision, but that he has no intention of giving up. Currently, Waller said he helps people parking at the arena, but coming to the legion, cross Mountain Street regularly.

He added a petition calling for a crosswalk to be installed has been signed by more than 500 people.

"Everybody I talk to says this is something they definitely want and definitely need," Waller said. "This is something the whole community can benefit from – seniors, parents with children, everybody."

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Highlander news

HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Winter sand for the public

Highlands East residents have a number of locations where they will be able to get winter sand for personal use this winter.

Public works manager, Perry Kelly, told a Dec. 9 council meeting that sites include: the Cardiff Water Treatment Plant at 2756 Monck Rd.; the Wilberforce ball field entrance at Essonville Line; the Highlands Grove Community Centre at 5373 Loop Rd., and the Glamorgan public works yard at 1042 McColls Rd.

"We hope to put about two to three tandem loads at each site." Kelly said. He added they would monitor over the winter and do top-ups as needed.

Coun. Angela Lewis thanked Kelly's department for putting sand, and signs, up in the various locations. She said she, and constituents, appreciated it.

Water and sewer rates

Residents of ward one in Highlands East will see a four per cent increase in residential water and sewer rates in 2026.

Environmental supervisor, Patrick Thompson, said the increases would cover operating and capital expenditures associated with the drinking water and wastewater systems.

The residential customers of the drinking water and sewer systems are currently not metered and are charged a flat rate. The Trillium Lakelands District School Board and the Royal Canadian Legion users are metered and billed according to the volume of water used, but together make up only a small fraction of the total user revenues, Thompson said.

The increases bring the residential water rates to $892.34, from $858.02; and sewer to $561.02, from $539.44. The commercial rates rise to, for example, $4.04 per 1,000 gallons – from $3.88.

The rates were just some in an extensive 2026 proposed user fees and charges report on the meeting agenda.

Looking for more EV chargers

CAO Brittany McCaw sought council's approval to submit a grant application to the EV ChargeON Program to place two Level 2 electric vehicle chargers (four ports) at Herlihey Park, Gooderham Community Centre and Cardiff Community Centre.

McCaw said the program became available in November 2025. It is delivered by the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation. This is the second intake of the program. Previously, it was administered directly by the ministry. McCaw said municipalities with populations under 170,000 are eligible to receive up to 75 per cent of total project costs.

The township was unsuccessful in round one.

McCaw said, "the municipality intends to reapply … this initiative supports municipal climate change goals and promotes economic development. While vehicles are charging, drivers may explore local shops and attractions, showcasing what Highlands East has to offer."

She said, currently, Highlands East has limited EV charging infrastructure, with only one station in Wilberforce. "Adding these new locations would expand access for residents and visitors across the municipality."

McCaw said the expectation is that the units would be a fee for service with some amount of revenue received by the municipality, depending on usage. It is anticipated that revenue would be set aside for future maintenance of the chargers.

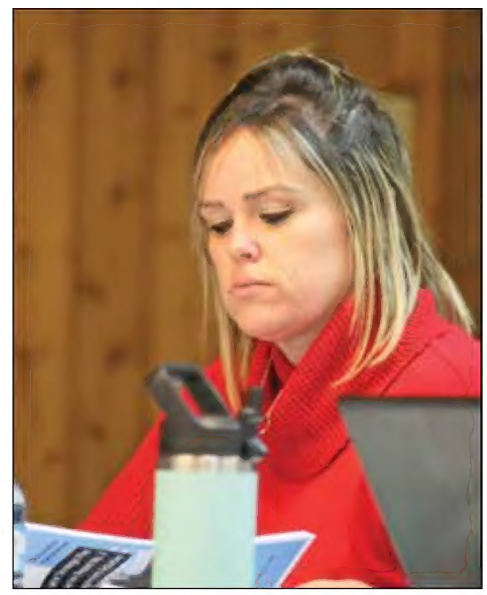
Recycling changes

On Kelly's recommendation, council agreed to a three-year deal with Circular Materials Ontario for blue box recycling. The deal goes to Jan. 1, 2029 and is part of the move to producer responsibility.

His other request was that council direct staff to accept recyclables in a separate container at the municipal depots from all non-eligible sources.

"Both the Monmouth (Tory Hill) and Bicroft (Cardiff) waste disposal sites are currently outfitted with additional recycling bins and can provide an easy transition to the affected IC&I (industrial, commercial and institutional) partners," Kelly said.

(Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais)



CAO Brittany McCaw would like more EV charging stations in Highlands East. *File.*

Highlander news

Residents get new doctor for Christmas

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County's physician recruitment coordinator, Wendy Welch, has confirmed the Haliburton hospital will soon have a full complement of rostered doctors – the first time that's happened since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was announced Dec. 12 that Dr. Max Rannie is joining the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) team in April. Welch said he will be full-time at the Haliburton facility, working six shifts per month in the emergency department and one week per month carrying out hospitalist care – caring for admitted patients in the acute care ward.

Welch confirmed a full-time contract reflects 12 shifts in the emergency department (ER), or a combination of hospitalist weeks and ER. Hospitalist shifts are 12 hours, with three blocks for ER care – a morning shift from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., an overlap shift from noon to 8 p.m., and evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Rannie committed to HHHS after visiting the community in August. Welch said he learned about the opportunity through the County's online portal promoting the Highlands community as a premiere destination to live and work.

He becomes the fifth arrival at HHHS this year, following Dr. Peter Faulkner, Dr. Harrison Bishop, Dr. Mario Lupu and Dr. Carly Eisbrenner through the hospital's front doors. Welch said Rannie's arrival was a major deal.

Dr. Max Rannie will join the Haliburton Highlands Health Services team in April. *Submitted.*

"With the addition of Dr. Rannie, HHHS no longer has a need to recruit physicians for the hospital at this time," Welch said.

Rannie secured his Doctor of Medicine from the Medical University of the Americas in 2018 before completing his family practise residency in Bangor, Maine in 2021. For the past four years, he has been working in community and hospitalist medicine in the U.S.

The physician has committed to working at least four years at HHHS. That will allow him to tap into approximately $115,000 in money from the County, as part of its physician recruitment program. The County offers doctors incentives to practise in the area, including annual payments of $25,000 for a maximum of six years and reimbursing moving expenses up to $15,000.

There are other perks the County doles out, too – one-year memberships to the Minden Recreation Centre and the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre, while the upper-tier government also maintains two properties doctors can use while they're finding a more permanent home.

"On behalf of our community, I am pleased to welcome Dr. Rannie to the Haliburton Highlands," said County warden Dave Burton. "His knowledge and expertise will be a wonderful addition to the excellent care provided at HHHS."

The hospital's chief of staff, Dr. Faulkner, said it's "always exciting" welcoming new members to the HHHS team, noting Rannie's skills, energy and perspective "will be a tremendous asset as we continue to be an anchor organization in the Highlands."

Welch said Rannie is an addition at the Haliburton facility, not a replacement.

As he prepares for a new life in Canada, Rannie said he's excited to learn about everything cottage country has to offer. He also wants to be a leader in his new community.

"It is my strong intention to contribute meaningfully to patient care, team collaboration and the overall health and wellbeing of residents," Rannie said.

Drugs seized and charges laid in Minden after traffic stop

The Haliburton Highlands detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has arrested and charged two individuals following a traffic stop in Minden.

On Dec. 6, at approximately 3 p.m., members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP and the Central Region Traffic Incident Management and Enforcement Team of the OPP, were dispatched to an impaired driver call in Minden. Two people were arrested, and a quantity of suspected controlled drugs and substances located.

As a result of the investigation, Jesse Potts, 33, of Oshawa, has been charged with: three counts of possession of a schedule I substance; possession of break-in instruments; possessing counterfeit money; possession of weapon for dangerous purpose and failure to comply with probation order.

And further, Maria Teresa Nicoli, 34, of Oshawa, has been charged with: three counts of possession of a schedule I substance; possession of break-in instruments; possessing counterfeit money; possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and drive while under suspension

OPP said approximately 4.8 grams of suspected fentanyl, 29.6 grams of suspected methamphetamine, three grams of suspected cocaine, and more than 950 grams of suspected marijuana were seized as a result of the investigation.

Both accused are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date.

If you have any information that may assist officers or if you were the victim of property crime, please call the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 with reference number E251642098. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you can call the Kawartha/Haliburton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or go online at www.khcrimestoppers.com (*Lisa Gervais*)

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Minden Hills council signs off on Brady Lake cell tower

By Lisa Gervais

Despite four people voicing objections to a proposed cell tower near Brady Lake in Minden Hills, council agreed to a letter of concurrence for the project.

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) said the tower would result in improved coverage and capacity to more than 1,000 households.

EORN's Lisa Severson and Paula Preston said it would provide improved mobile service along Hwy. 118, currently served by two sites more than 20 kilometres apart.

They further said it would provide service for approximately 148 unserved households and 187 unserved parcels, and "overall provides improved coverage and capacity to approximately 1,091 households and 1,238 parcels." They added it would address gaps in the northern quadrant of Minden Hills.

They pointed out this was the third location considered for the site, and "there is no time left in the project to find an alternative and complete the regulatory requirements."

Spectra-Point Inc., on behalf of Rogers, said they'd done public consultation in the form of notifying people within the required setbacks; advertising in local newspapers; and a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. They said 16 residents commented, with 11 in support of the tower "citing public safety, access to connectivity, and tourism as reasons why it should proceed."

They said five residents don't support the tower "due to concerns with possible property devaluation and health issues related to electromagnetic radiation from the tower. Several of these requested the tower be moved." However, Spectra said the issues are deemed non-relevant concerns by the ISED (Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada).

Spectra said they did a natural heritage assessment and an environmental impact study, with some mitigation requirements they plan to adhere to. They asked for a council letter of concurrence.

However, Donna and James Conn told council, "as residents of Brady Lake, we have substantial concerns regarding the process, location, consultation, environmental impact, and land use compatibility associated with this proposal."

Among their many concerns was that the tower "would have profound and irreversible impacts on: the visual landscape of Brady Lake; migratory bird habitat and adjacent wetlands and community cohesion and enjoyment of shoreline properties."

Brady Lake property owner Heather Conn told council, "the Brady Lake community supports improved connectivity — but not through misrepresentation, lack of transparency, or avoidance of accountability. This project, as presently managed, fails to meet both the letter and the spirit of ISED's public consultation framework and the ethical expectations of publicly-funded infrastructure."

Emillie Jones also lodged opposition to the proposed tower, citing a flawed public consultation process, environmental concerns, inaccurate photo simulations, scaring people by saying this is the last attempt at the site, lack of information and community involvement.

Minden Hills director of planning,

Coun. Shirley Johannessen had questions about the proposed cell tower on Brady Lake. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Amanda Dougherty, told council she felt the public consultation was completed in accordance with ISED protocol and the tower complies with land use requirements of the township official plan and zoning bylaw. She asked council to sign the statement of concurrence.

Coun. Shirley Johannessn peppered the EORN and Spectra delegates with questions, prefacing her comments with, "I can't go personal with this because this is where I reside." She said she had concerns, but wanted to look at the whole picture.

Council agreed to the letter of concurrence via a recorded vote, with Coun. Bob Sisson the only one voting against.

Twelve days of holiday safety in Minden Hills

By Mike Baker

Minden Hills firefighters will be busy over the holidays educating the public about important fire safety guidelines they should be following through the festive season.

Chief Don Kruger said the department recently launched a '12 Days of Holiday Fire Safety' campaign, with staff covering several safety topics in a series of social media releases and in-person demonstrations from Dec. 12 to 23.

"This is a campaign the Ontario Fire Marshal has been running for several years and I have always participated everywhere else I have been chief, as I think public education should be a priority," said Kruger, who joined the Minden department in summer 2024. "Any time of year is devastating for families to have a fire, but Christmas time is especially sad."

Already covered so far, Kruger said, are tips and advice around installing holiday lights, tree watering, using candles and decorations, and the importance of having working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms installed.

Still to come Dec. 18 are pointers on kitchen safety for children; home fire escape plans Dec. 19; cooking Dec. 20; heating sources Dec. 21; smoking Dec. 22; and lithium-ion batteries Dec. 23. Kruger said volunteers have provided personal testimonials for each daily theme, grounding the safety advice in real-life, frontline experience

With OFM data indicating the highest number of residential fire deaths occur between November and January, Kruger feels it's important that people take notice and keep safety top of mind over the holidays. During the 2024 holiday season, there were 24 fatal residential fires in Ontario, resulting in 26 deaths.

"There are a number of things happening during the holidays that can lead to fires that the campaign touches on – the increased use of extension cords, having the tree inside and forgetting to water them, strings of lights everywhere, and increased consumption of alcohol while cooking," Kruger said.

Minden fire chief Don Kruger. *File.*

"The campaign also includes topics we promote all the time, such as working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, having a home escape plan, and having two ways out always," he added.

Kruger said all alarms should be tested monthly, batteries replaced annually and the alarms themselves replaced after 10 years of service.

Highlander news

COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Budget approved

County of Haliburton taxpayers will see a 4.38 per cent tax rate increase in 2026 – in addition to a 1.5 per cent dedicated capital levy and 0.5 per cent community health levy.

Director of corporate services, Andrea Robinson, said the combined levies are a total cost to the ratepayer of $17.15 per $100,000 of assessment.

To get to the full 6.38 per cent increase, council decreased the sustainable roads infrastructure program by $500,000; cut the Haliburton County Public Library levy contribution by $336,258; will fully fund a new cybersecurity analyst at a cost of $67,687; make the new GIS job a seven-month contract, as opposed to full-time to save $18,987; remove the Industrial Park Road Haliburton intersection project; and received a smaller bill than anticipated from the City of Kawartha Lakes, a reduction of about $70,000.

Robinson added – during a Dec. 10 meeting – that staff want a chance to prove they need a grant writer-procurement specialist, including it as an 18-month contract.

"With the intent of this position bringing in new grant monies, at a minimum, to offset any levy impact. Should that not be the case within the 18-month period, staff will dissolve this position and fund any deficit created by it with salary gapping monies and/or the working fund reserve," she said.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux reiterated her opposition to council capping library funding at $1 million this year. By a recorded vote, council passed the budget by 7-1, with Dailloux voting against. The budget bylaw to set the rate will be brought to a January meeting.

Tourism plan

Manager of tourism, Angelica Ingram, said her department wants to foster community engagement and growth in 2026.

In discussing strategic initiatives for next year, Ingram said "our 2026 marketing plan emphasizes outreach, partnerships with local entities, and engaging events to showcase the Haliburton Highlands' natural beauty and cultural richness.

"Conversations have begun with arts and culture organizations, Rotary groups, the Chamber of Commerce, local BIAs, the Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO) and Destination Ontario to further these collaborations in 2026."

Ingram said they want to enhance their digital presence, targeting nature enthusiasts via strategic marketing that showcases the Highlands' "stunning landscapes." They are working on a "refreshed" explore map.

She added "another project the team is researching is the creation of a visitor book, which would include all tourism related businesses and would be available free to the public."

It was noted the five-year destination management plan has reached its end, and her team would like to invest in a refresh.

She said they are also planning more maps, and getting ready for a new website for 2027.

They will also be doing more planning now that the townships are collecting a municipal accommodation tax – requiring the creation of a Municipal Services Corporation in 2026 and allocating the funds to tourism projects and priorities.

(*County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais*)

Coun. Dave Burton was sworn in as County warden Dec. 9. Coun. Liz Danielsen will return as deputy warden. *Submitted.*

Group fined for engaging in illegal moose hunt in Highlands East

By Lisa Gervais

The Ministry of Natural Resources said on Dec. 12 that four people from southern Ontario have been fined a total of $10,500 for moose hunting violations in Highlands East.

They said Jason Atherton of St. Catharines pleaded guilty to unlawfully hunting a cow moose without a licence and unlawfully using a moose tag issued to someone else.

He was fined $4,500 and received a one-year hunting licence suspension.

Jeffery Atherton of Dundas, Joseph Burton of Ramara, and Mark Thompson of Orillia each pleaded guilty to unlawfully transporting wildlife. All three were fined $2,000 each.

The Ontario Court of Justice heard that, on Oct. 23, 2024, conservation officers conducted an inspection at a moose hunting camp on Hadlington Road in Monmouth Township and determined that Jason Atherton had shot an adult cow moose the day before and used another group member's tag. That group member was not present or actively participating in the hunt on that date and the group failed to meet the proper requirements of party hunting.

Jeffery Atherton, Burton and Thompson loaded the moose the following morning and transported it to a location in the Hamilton area where they skinned and prepared the moose for butchering. The moose was later seized by MNR officials as part of the investigation.

Justice of the Peace Jack Le Blanc heard the case remotely in the Ontario Court of Justice, Lindsay, on Aug. 12, 2025.

To report a natural resource problem or provide information about an unsolved case, members of the public can call the ministry TIPS line toll free at 1-877-847-7667. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS. For more information about unsolved cases, please visit ontario.ca/mnrtips.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

UPCOMING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Municipal Office (7 Milne St.), Fire Office and Public Works Office:

• December 24th 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
• CLOSED December 25th – January 1st

Minden Hills Cultural Centre / Agnes Jamieson Gallery (176 Bobcaygeon Rd.)

• CLOSED December 24th – January 1st

SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.)

• December 24th 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
• December 31st 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• CLOSED December 25th, December 26th, and January 1st.
• Regular operating hours December 27th - December 30th

Waste Disposal Sites

• Regular winter hours
• ALL SITES CLOSED December 25th and January 1st.

Regular operating hours resume on Friday, January 2, 2026. Visit our website for more information.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• January 8, 2026 - Regular Council & Budget Meeting
• January 22, 2026 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

NOTICE OF PROCEDURE BY-LAW REVIEW AND UPDATE

The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills hereby gives notice of its intent to propose changes to its Procedure By-law scheduled for adoption on January 8, 2026. Changes include but are not limited to: Strong Mayor Powers legislation, Agenda item Delegations, Notice of Motion, Regular Council meetings dates, housekeeping, and formatting, A marked up version of the By-law will be available on the Township website the week of December 15, 2025.

Inquiries or Individuals wishing to comment may contact the Township Clerk at admin@mindenhills.ca on or before January 6th , 2026.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

A selection of artwork from the Agnes Jamieson Gallery's permanent collection, as well as new acquisitions, is now on display. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

DROP-IN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The drop-in holiday schedule for the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena is available online and at the arena Front Desk. Check out the activities available from December 21 to January 4, 2026.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 · Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 · Fax: 705-286-4917
@Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Feliz Navidad

By Lisa Gervais

As I sit down to write this editorial, it is 16 Celsius outside with some light rain.

I've just come back from a drive to Sant Elm, in Mallorca, Spain.

Sant Elm is a charming coastal village in the far south-west corner of Mallorca. With the foothills of the Serra de Tramuntana mountains behind it, and the uninhabited island of Sa Dragonera in front, you couldn't ask for a more beautiful spot.

Sant Elm was named after the patron saint of sailors. In the past, it was a quiet fishing village. Today, it largely remains true to its roots, but a few restaurants have popped up in the area in recent years and have added to its charms.

It doesn't really feel like a resort but there are a couple of hotels and a selection of villas, ideal for those keen to keep away from the beaten track of Mallorca's southwestern coastline. With the mountain range on its doorstep, Sant Elm is also a prime location for hikers and cyclists to base themselves.

As I sip a café con leche overlooking the ocean, I feel very grateful that I have been able to swap a Haliburton County wintry month for a Balearic island Christmas and New Year. It's not all holidays, mind you. I've been working; helping to produce *The Highlander* from about 6,600 km away.

The winters here are particularly calm, with many restaurants and shops closing for their annual break. I don't mind. I prefer the quiet. I'm okay walking north, south, east and west to discover what's there. Often, it's a beach. In the larger towns, such as the capital, Palma, there is still a lot to see and do.

On the weekend, I visited the Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma, a Gothic Roman Catholic cathedral. It is situated on the seashore of Palma, abutting the city walls and between the Royal Palace of La Almudaina and the Episcopal Palace of Mallorca. Its rose window, with a diameter of nearly 14 metres, is the second-largest extant Gothic rose window, while its 44-metre high nave is the eighth highest in the world. Construction on the cathedral began shortly after the reconquest of the island in 1229, and continued into the 17th century. Today, the cathedral is Palma's most popular tourist attraction.

What's nice about this trip is we've done a house swap with friends. While we live in their home in Magaluf, they are tucked up in ours in the Highlands. After hearing about the weather from friends, family, and colleagues back home, I think we win.

Yesterday, the neighbours adorned their front gate with an impressive Christmas display. They've used cardboard to make a winter village scene replete with fake snow and Christmas presents underneath. They've rounded it out with red hearts and lights.

We found our friends' Christmas tree and decorations and have adorned our home away from home, too.

As I gaze at the fake snow across the road, I can't help but picture the winter wonderland back home. I know some of you will say I'm crazy to say that I would prefer a Haliburton County Christmas and a New Year to a Spanish one. I'm not that loco. I'll take that 16 C and light rain. But one thing is for sure. It will be different.

Feliz Navidad.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

A Santa exclusive

By Susan Tromanhauser

Santa with Beau Rowden at the Stanhope Firefighters Children's Christmas Party. *Submitted.*

All eyes at the Stanhope Firefighters' Community Hall turn to welcome Santa, the big jolly man in the red suit. There are 75 children waiting to have their turn on his knee, but the biggest secret is - Santa is just as excited as the children for this special moment.

Ten years ago, the Stanhope firefighters recruited Kevin Fairey to don the Santa suit for their annual children's party. Fairey suspects it wasn't his jolly personality, but his ability to fill out the suit, that got him the job.

But he took to the suit so well he has remained as their party Santa and his role has been expanded to include the three annual tree lighting events across Algonquin Highlands.

Initially, he was nervous about his own children recognizing him and spoiling the Christmas magic. Over the years, they learned of their father's secret persona but it was explained Santa was so busy this time of year, he needed helpers, and their Fairey is a helper. In his role as Santa, Fairey is leery about being around children he personally knows because he does not want to spoil their fantasy. His boys, now 15 and 18, still believe in the Christmas magic Santa brings because otherwise they know there would not be gifts under their tree.

Volunteerism is part of Fairey's lifestyle. He began as a 15-year-old volunteering as a firefighter and continued to do so for 25 years. He also coached soccer with the Stanhope league, but now, at the age of 52, has transitioned into tending the soccer snack bar with his wife. His youngest son has stepped up to take his father's place as a coach in the league.

Fairey easily explains why he continues to assist Santa each season. "It's all about the kids." He enjoys seeing the smiles on their faces and the awe in their eyes as they get rapt in the wonder of his snowy beard. Some children do get overwhelmed and might cry, but Santa clutches them closer to reassure. Fairey knows it's important to get that special picture of a child on Santa's knee. Parents appreciate the keepsake of the Santa pic and the few moments of special time during what can be a hectic and stressful season.

Fairey understands the economy has weakened and says it is easy to spot the relaxed parents from those who are struggling. He never asks what the kids want because it might not happen. But at the Stanhope firefighter Christmas party, each child leaves with a present, so no one is left out.

Fairey enjoys seeing all age groups at the Algonquin Highlands tree lighting events. He recognizes some seniors are also struggling at this time of year and they appreciate Santa's visit as much as the young ones. Santa is an opportunity to gather and it is coming together as a community that makes Christmas truly the most wonderful time of the year.

Correction: In the Dec. 11 edition of *The Highlander*, in the story 'Land Trust buys 200-acre Minden reserve' we incorrectly stated the purchase price was $820,000. That was the amount of the Parks Canada grant. The purchase price was $498,000.

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Sushil Ram of Haliburton sent this photo of a cardinal on a snowy branch.

LETTER

I vaccinate for you

Dear editor,

A couple of weeks ago, *The Highlander* kindly published a letter I wrote about the risks of unregulated natural supplements. I wrote it as a physician, not as a politician.

For decades, I have received my fall flu shot to protect babies, old, sick, and vulnerable people. A flu shot is for the community. It reduces spread and severity of illness, hospitalizations, lost work days and death. It decreases the burden on my colleagues in the emergency room, the stress on our maxed healthcare system. Your vaccine frees up resources for other medical needs.

This year, our influenza vaccine protects from H3N2, a particularly nasty strain of flu. In November, we already had positive patient swabs demonstrating H3N2 is here in our community.

There are viruses we have no vaccine for (human metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus), and those we do have vaccines for (influenza). These work.

People who got the 2024-25 flu vaccine were 50 per cent less likely than unvaccinated people to need medical care for respiratory illness (Canadian Sentinel Practitioner Surveillance Network).

Why are fewer people vaccinating? Some are victims of aggressive and seductive scare tactics intended to create mistrust in the medical system.

I notice people come to the doctor's office having 'researched' from random unverified online sources. There are many validated medical resources online that I encourage patients to use. I tell them not to fall for snake oil salesmen and intentional misinformation (disinformation). I point out they wouldn't stand on the street corner getting healthcare advice from random Joe Blow. But that is what unverified online medical 'research' amounts to.

Do people spend this much time searching online to second guess their car mechanic?

I will continue to vaccinate for you, your baby, your gramma. I hope you do the same.

Dr. Nell Thomas
Minden Hills

Believe in the Magic of Giving!

Your holiday gift in support of LOCAL HEALTH CARE helps create magic all year long!

This is the Magic of Giving...

The new Diagnostic Imaging wing is almost complete, 100% funded by this community. State-of-the-art technology in the County, reduces travel for imaging services and frees up space for a dedicated mental health room.

Investing in equipment is investing in our community. The new CT Scanner is attracting skilled professionals and strengthening rural healthcare for our community. **HHHS is evolving toward a model of excellence in rural healthcare.**

The need for Meals-On-Wheels subsidies has doubled in less than a year. Last year, we shared over 10,000 meals, bringing comfort and care to our most vulnerable neighbours. This year, we aim to do even more.

Long-term Care residents now benefit from "MealSuite" an innovative nutrition system that provides personalized care. **Thanks to community support, HHHS staff have more time to engage with residents.**

"One of the Best Investments You Could Make"

Don and Anne have deep roots in the Highlands – Don's great-grandmother built the Bonnie View, now a local landmark. But Don's cancer treatments became more intensive, the couple faced a challenge. The radiation was exhausting, and the long drives to appointments was becoming impossible.

Don had always been the driver, but with his health declining and Anne nervous to get behind the wheel again, they didn't know how they would manage.

That changed when they learned about **HHHS Community Support Services' medically necessary transportation program** during a seminar at their apartment complex.

"Once we spoke with the intake team, we learned we qualified for the subsidy," Anne says. "We had our first ride booked before the end of the meeting."

In September alone, Don took **seven trips to Peterborough** and one to **Oshawa** for treatment – each trip costing **$25** thanks to donor-supported subsidies.

"It's been really good," Don says. "It's taken the pressure off both of us, and now we're dropped right at the door, so I don't have to walk as far with my walker. We have marvelous volunteers, and this program means so much to people like us who want to stay independent."

Last year, the Foundation **subsidized over 10,000 kilometres** of medically necessary travel. With your help, **we can exceed that this year**.

This is the magic of giving.

To donate by mail make your cheque payable to:
HHHS Foundation

☐ $35 ☐ $75 ☐ $200 ☐ Other $_____

Donor Name _____

Address *(required for tax receipt)*

_____

_____

Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Believe in the Magic of Giving Today!

☐ Yes! Please send me email updates on the impact of my gift

☐ I'm thinking of adding HHHSF to my Will, please contact me

☐ Please do NOT publicly acknowledge this gift – I wish it to be anonymous

In Memory of:

_____

2025

SCAN to donate online or VISIT hhhs.ca/foundation
You will receive your tax receipt automatically.

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EMAIL foundation@hhhs.ca
7199 Gelert Road, PO Box 1413
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

Charitable No. 89028 0449 RR0001

Celebrating life of Haliburton war hero

By Mike Baker

For more than a century, Haliburton's Cec Bailey lived life to the fullest.

The Second World War veteran passed away Dec. 4 aged 101. His daughter, Pearl Wood, said Bailey suffered a fall at a care home in Gananoque on Nov. 18, injuring his hip. He was rushed for emergency surgery, which Wood said was successful, though Bailey never recovered his strength.

He had moved to Gananoque from the Gardens of Haliburton in August. Wood said it was one of the few times in his life that Bailey resided outside of Haliburton County.

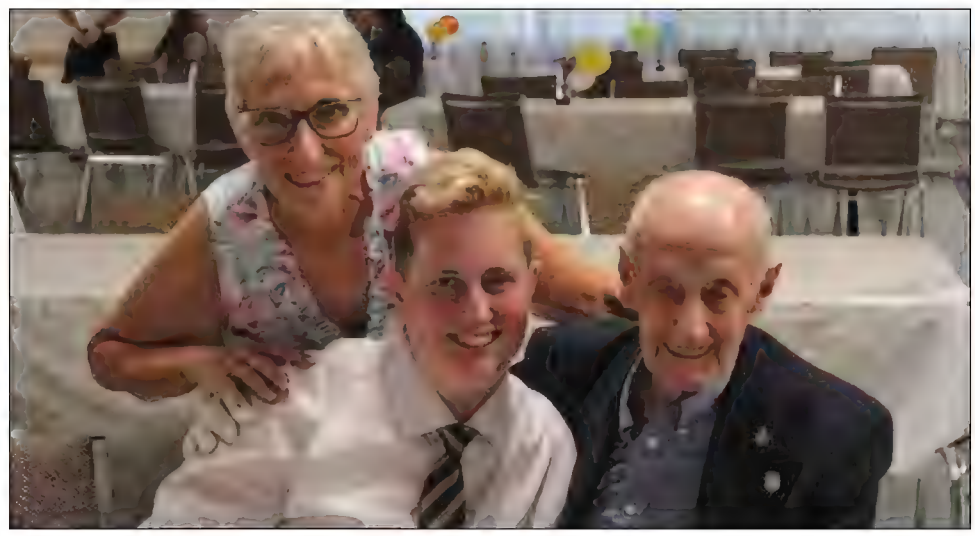
"He was starting to need a little more care, coming into his 101st year, so we looked into where he could go. There were nine options, but thankfully he ended up in Gananoque, which is where I live," Wood said. "I got to see him every day after he moved here."

She said her dad was suffering with a chest infection in the days leading up to his death.

He moved to Haliburton as a teenager in the 1930s, relocating from the city with his family. His father, W.O. Bailey, operated the sawmill in town throughout Cec's formative years.

Mike Waller, president of the Haliburton Legion, said he met Bailey about 15 years ago.

"He had some great stories, especially about growing up in Haliburton. When he was younger, Cec used to take his dad's car all the time," Waller said. Driving a luxury



Pearl Wood, back, said her father Cec Bailey, right, was the life of the party until his very last day. *File.*

1939 Chrysler Royal, word always got back to Bailey's father.

"He'd tell me about how frustrated his dad would get – he didn't know what to do, so, one day, he decided to take the distributor cap off every night so that it wouldn't drive," Waller said. "So, Cec would go down the street to a neighbour's car, borrow that distributor cap and put it on his dad's car so he could take it out."

Bailey, who served in Europe from 1942 to 1945, was a staple at the Legion for years. Waller said he was a fixture at the Friday night meat draw every week well into his 90s.

Only 15 when the Second World War began, Bailey watched as his older brother, Merrill, and several of-age friends enlisted. He wrote them regularly and, four years later, followed in his brother's footsteps when signing up for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Bailey was a crash tender, driving an ambulance during missions in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany. He participated in the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944, part of the forces who took Juno Beach.

Wood said her dad didn't share many of his war stories – he never considered himself a hero, saving that distinction for his brother who flew in 19 missions before his plane was shot down and he became a Prisoner of War (PoW). The pair were reunited in 1945, once the war ended.

After returning to Canada, Bailey returned to the family home in Eagle Lake and went to work for his father. He met his wife, Irene, at the old Golden Slipper dance hall. The pair were married in 1949 and had two children – Wood and Clark Bailey, who died in 1990.

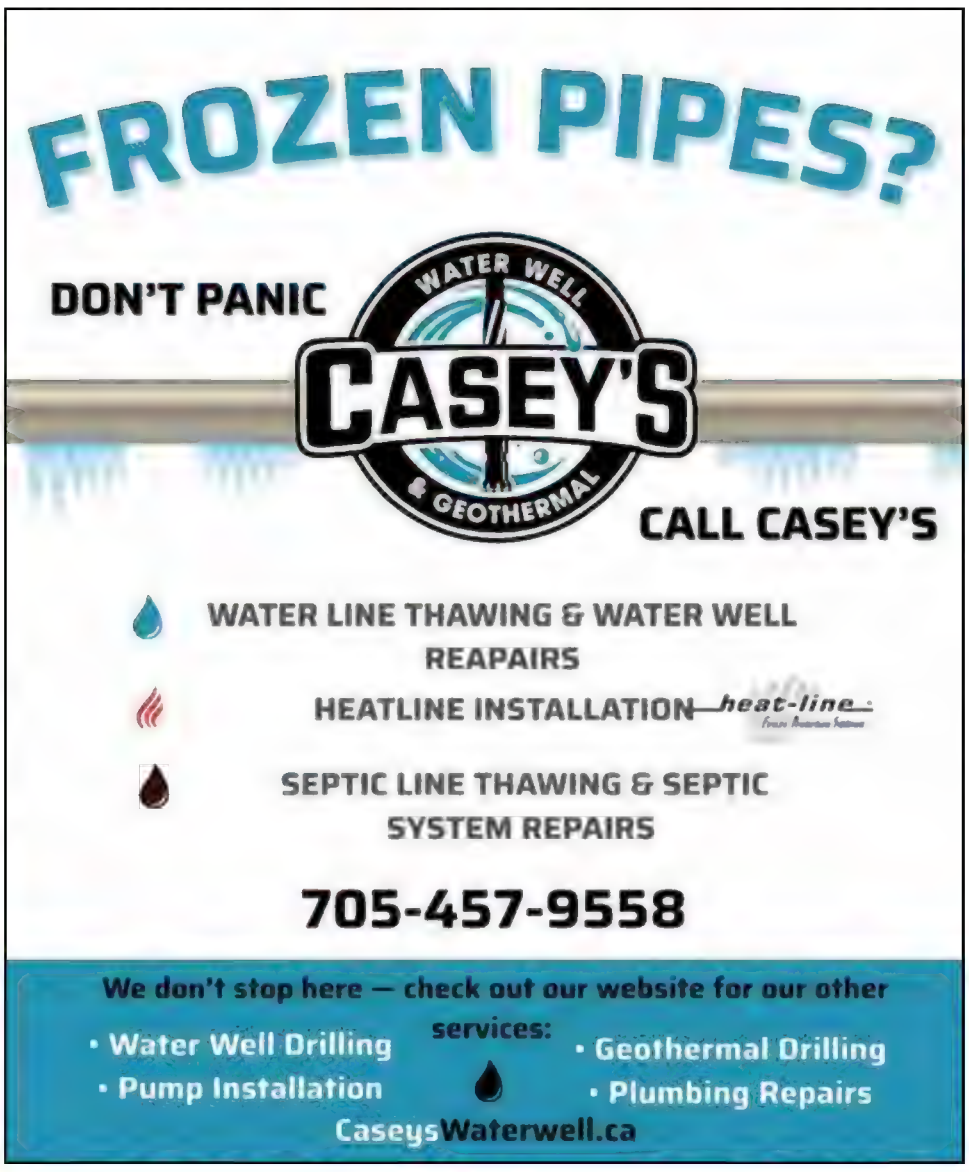
After the sawmill closed, Bailey took lots of odd jobs around the County. He got into construction, working with Don McFadden, and also spent time as a custodian at Hal High. While Bailey liked people, Wood said, he was happiest working alone. He specialized in home construction – building every house he ever lived in.

"He liked to call himself a jack of all trades, master of none. He did a lot of stonework – he built the wall that still stands today by [Halco Plaza]," Wood said. "He liked it best when he was his own boss and could work to his own schedule."

He was lively right until the end – Wood said staff at his new care home told her how he'd dance with them daily, using only his arms, and was always quick to crack a joke. While he was in the hospital for his hip surgery, he constantly had the nurses and doctors chuckling, she said.

"He was my last parent, my dad. We didn't always see eye-to-eye, but I'll really miss him."

Wood said her father has been cremated. She plans to bury him at St. Stephen's Cemetery, beside her mother, in Algonquin Highlands next spring. There will also be a celebration of life at the Haliburton Legion.



Highlander business

One more Winter?

There is an alternative!

Don't battle the snow and isolation one more year.

Enjoy some warm, cozy, worry-free retirement living at the Gardens of Haliburton.

Visit us at gardensofhaliburton.ca
or give us a call at (705) 457-4848

Erika Mozes and Josh Karam are relocating their Delancey Sports business in Haliburton's downtown. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Delancey Sports moving to prime spot

By Mike Baker

Five years after opening Delancey Sports in Haliburton village, owners Josh Karam and Erika Mozes say they're excited to make their popular store a bigger and better downtown destination.

The couple recently closed a deal for 212 Highland St., the building that last housed Lockside Trading Company. They will be moving from their current location, at 162 Highland St, over the holidays and aim to be open at their new home by mid-January. Mozes said the move is a long time coming, with the couple spending two years searching for the perfect place to grow their operation.

"We love Haliburton, have really become a part of this community and we wanted to do more than we're able to at our current spot," Mozes said. "We want to become a year-round community hub. We have big plans for this building, more than just opening a bigger and better sports store."

With around 5,000 sq. ft. of space – a sizeable expansion from the 1,500 sq. ft. they currently have, Karam and Mozes say they plan to grow the arcade they opened last summer and install a golf simulator. There are also plans to open a boutique gym on the second floor this coming spring.

On the sporting goods side, Karam said there will be more space to showcase hockey, fitness, curling and skiing equipment – all staples of the current store. He plans to expand on Delancey's golf products and tap into Mozes' running expertise. She ran her first marathon this year, in Muskoka, and plans to tackle long-distance excursions in Ottawa and Chicago in 2026.

"We're really passionate, sporty people. We want to make sure people have the right gear, but we're also really interested in building community. We want this place to become a year-round community hub. In this building, you will be able to do more than just shop for sporting goods. You can also do all your fitness activities, it's somewhere for your kids to play and hang out," Mozes said.

Karam added, "this move is all about providing more selection for our shoppers. The property ticked all the boxes, we feel it's the best storefront on the main street, it's even more centrally located… we're excited. This building is presenting us with the expansion we've always had in mind."

Delancey has three locations – in Haliburton village, Bracebridge and at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride. There's also an online store at www.delanceysports.com.

Mozes said the gym will provide individual training options within a group setting – it will be a pressure-free zone meeting people wherever they're at in their fitness journey. She said there will be all the usual equipment you'd find in a gym, while she's also had discussions with Peloton about bringing their technology to Haliburton.

The arcade will be Karam's baby – and he's already excited about the new golf simulator.

"The really exciting thing about this is that we're building something we ourselves will use, which is pretty great," he said.

SIR SAM'S INN & SPA

DECEMBER EVENTS

LIVE MUSIC ALL MONTH LONG:
Dec 27 - Gord Kidd
Dec 31 (NYE!) - Cam Galloway

NEW Dining Packages Let us do the cooking this week!
Call for reservations (705) 754 2188

New Year's Eve Celebration on Eagle Lake! Send off 2025 and ring in the New Year with us! We will be offering a delicious 3 course dining menu including prime rib and other options, live music featuring Cam Galloway in Gunner's Pub, fireworks over Eagle Lake and at midnight a Champagne Toast with charcuterie board- all included with dinner or rooms reservations! Join the celebration for music, fireworks and toast and charcuterie for only $25 per person.

Dip n Dine Package Sunday through Thursday, add our relaxing WaterSpa experience for two for just $15 more when you make a dinner reservation!

Prime Rib Monday & Fish Fryday! Both restart the week of Jan 5th. We look forward to seeing you!

Highlander events

We wish you a Merry Christmas

Haliburton Rotary sprinkled a little extra festive cheer on the holiday season Dec. 12, hosting its annual Christmas party at A.J. LaRue Arena and the Haliburton Legion. Rotarians were out in full force, running a free community skate at the arena from 5 to 7 p.m. and welcoming folks into the legion for complimentary pizza and sweet treats, including cotton candy. There was live music, face painting from Pockets the Clown, and even an appearance from Santa Claus – who made sure all kids in attendance left with a gift. The club distributed 115 gifts.

Top: Four-year-old Nila Pascoe is mid-princess after opting for a colourful disguise from Pockets the Clown. Second: Hudson Cooney, five, flashes a smile. Third: Rotarians Cynthia Handler, Chris Whittemore and Ray Selby handed out pizza. Bottom: Jim Miners, Lorry Brandon and Laurie Wheeler provided a festive backdrop. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

HOLIDAY RECYCLING

Recycling for Containers

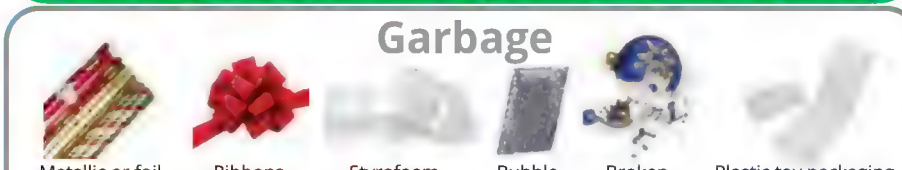
Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food

Aluminum foil and trays | Metal food cans | Beverage cartons | Plastic bottles (caps can be left on) | Plastic candy, fruit, veggie trays

Recycling for Papers

Paper gift wrap | Paper gift tags | Paper gift bags (remove string) | Christmas cards & envelopes | Cardboard rolls | Cardboard boxes (flatten)

Garbage



Metallic or foil wrapping paper | Ribbons, bows, tape | Styrofoam shipping block | Bubble wrap | Broken ornaments | Plastic toy packaging (hard-to-cut material)

Dysart Landfill Holiday Hours

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 (Christmas Eve)
8 AM to 12:30 PM: Haliburton
Closed: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, West Guilford

Thursday, December 25, 2025 (Christmas Day)
Closed: All Dysart Landfills

Friday, December 26, 2025 (Boxing Day)
10 AM to 5 PM: Haliburton, West Guilford
12 noon to 5 PM: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 (New Year's Eve)
8 AM to 12:30 PM: Haliburton
Closed: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, West Guilford

Thursday, January 1, 2026 (New Year's Day)
Closed: All Dysart Landfills

Friday, January 2, 2026
8 AM to 5 PM: Haliburton, West Guilford
Closed: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay

Municipality of Dysart et al

www.dysartetal.ca
705-457-1740

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS
Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Jan 6, 20 and 27
Stretch Class

Jan 6, 20 and 27
Exercise classes with Georgia

Jan 6 and 20
Seniors Cooking Workshop

Jan 8 and 22
Functional Senior Fitness

Jan 8, 15, 21, 30
Needle felting – winter landscapes

Jan 9, 16, 23 and 30
Senior Balance Fitness Class

Jan 9, 10, 21, 23
Genealogy for Seniors

Jan 12, 17
Fitness Success Workshop

Jan 14, 28
Senior Chair Fit Group

Jan 15, 29
Painting Class

Jan 15, 29
Chair Yoga

Jan 15, 20, 22, 27, 29
Falls Prevention Program

Jan 19
Museum Artifacts & Winter Landscapes webinar

January 21
Crafternoon

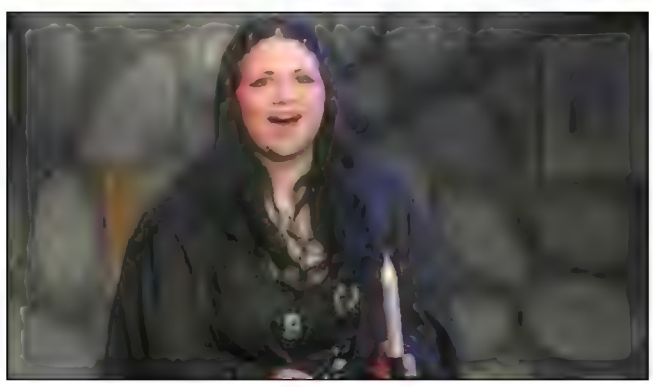
January 22
Savouring Stories

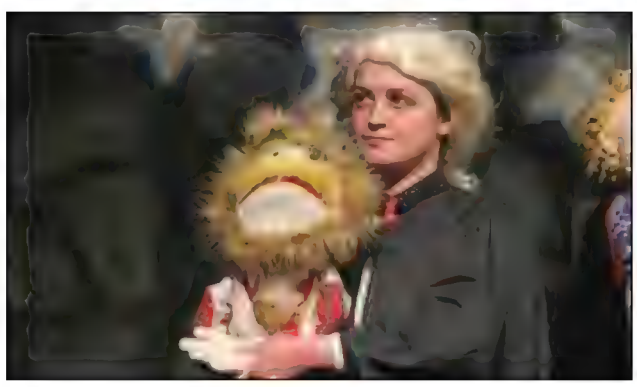
Ontario

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

For full details, visit HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC or pick up a calendar at a municipal office, library or Legion near you!

Highlander events





A magical show

The Hal High drama club treated County-based muggles to three magical shows this past weekend, presenting the locally-adapted feature *Puffs: Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.* With evening shows Dec. 12 and 13 and an afternoon matinee Dec. 14, the story focuses on Wayne Hopkins (played by Spencer Zumpano), Megan Jones (Sophie Lee) and Oliver Rivers (Alex Humphrey) as they navigate seven years of schooling in the universe a particular boy wizard made famous. Local theatre troupe Ctrl-ART-Del partnered on the production, with 13 students playing on-stage roles and 11 more assisting backstage.

Top left: Professor Turban (Adaya Kegel) leads defence against the dark arts class. Top right: Narrator Christina Weerdenburg, right, starts us off at the very beginning, with Harry Potter being dropped off with his aunt and uncle by First Headmaster (Sam Kyle) and A Very Tall Man (Kip Kelly). Middle right: Wayne Hopkins (Spencer Zumpano) and Oliver Rivers (Alex Humphrey). Bottom left: Viliya Ianovskaia portrayed the terrifying Death Buddy Xavia Jones. Bottom middle: Sophie Lee's Megan Jones has an epiphany. Bottom right: Blondo Malfoy, played by Poppy Ellenberger-March, was a constant menace. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Do you have newspapers from before 1980?

The Haliburton Highlands Digital Archive is seeking copies of old Haliburton County newspapers to complete their digital collection.

If you have local newspapers from before 1980 please visit **www.hhda.ca** for information on how to submit your papers to be included in the digital archive.

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Festival of Lessons and Carols – December 21st at 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24th Carol Singing at 7:15 pm, Service at 7:30 pm

Christmas Day Service – December 25th at 10:30 am

First Sunday after Christmas Service – December 28th at 10:30 am

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The**Highlander**

Christmas

Thursday December 18, 2025

Here comes Santa Claus

Eden and Arcadia Unbehaun were beaming with excitement Dec. 14 as they got to spend a few moments with Santa Claus. The big guy was in Wilberforce for the community's annual Santa Claus Parade. See page 3 for more. *Photo by Michah Wilson*

Giving the gift of warmth for the holidays

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County's non-profit affordable housing advocate is turning to the community this holiday season, asking for donations to help keep a warm, dry roof over the heads of low-income locals.

Places for People (P4P) launched its 'Shingle All the Way' campaign in early December, asking County residents to dip into their pockets to purchase symbolic shingles, priced at $25 each. The non-profit's president, Susan Tromanhauser, said this is a great way to give back to the community, noting a donation could be the perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your Christmas list.

Each shingle purchased will directly support ongoing and future roof maintenance at P4P's 21 rental units, Tromanhauser said.

The non-profit has housed more than 100 people since its launch in 2005 and is preparing for expansion. This past fall, the group announced a partnership with Habitat for Humanity Peterborough-Haliburton, committing to purchasing 15 units in a new 35-unit complex slated for Peninsula Road in Haliburton village.

"Through the generous contributions of our donors we have been able to continue providing housing for our current tenants. And, moving forward, we have the opportunity to grow our inventory of non-market rental units," Tromanhauser said. "We can't do it without the continued support of this amazing community.

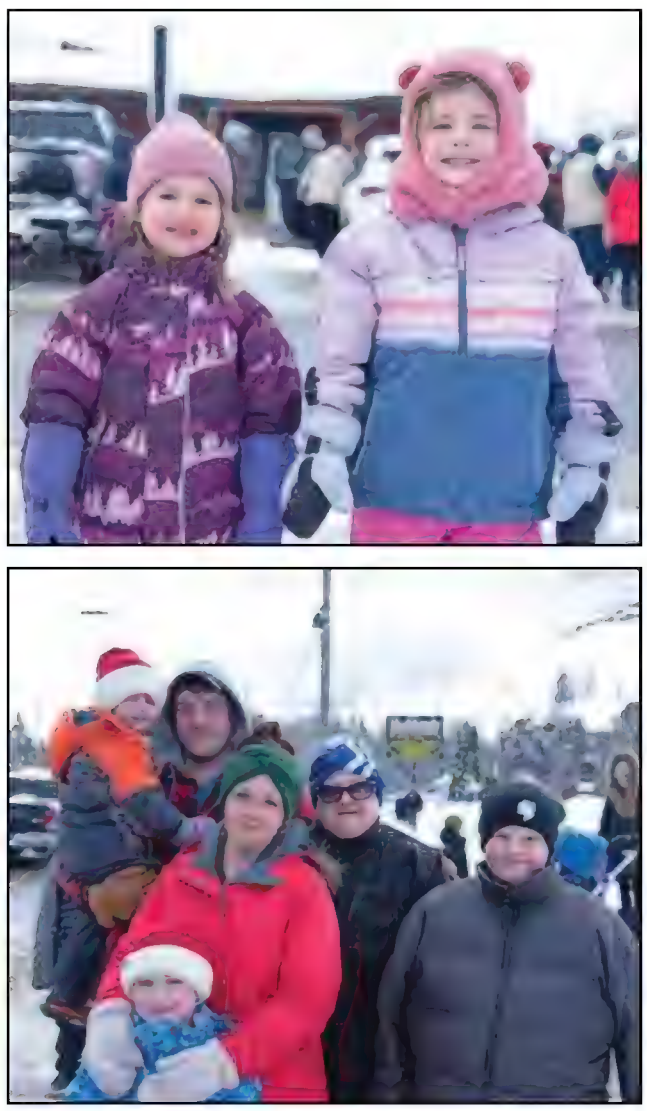
She said the need for under-market rental housing in the Highlands continues to grow, with rising real estate prices over the past five years pushing many towards housing insecurity.

"Many local residents – individuals, families, single parents and seniors – are finding it harder than ever to afford market rents, or aspire to home ownership, as prices rise beyond reach," Tromanhauser said.

Last year's holiday campaign brought in nearly $20,000 and was used to repair/replace windows and ensure units are heated appropriately. This year, P4P is hoping to raise $30,000. Purchases can be made online at www.placesforpeople.ca.

"Help us reach our goal and give a gift of conscience. By purchasing a $25 shingle, you directly help maintain essential, safe shelters for our tenants – a gift that goes far beyond the holidays and delivers tangible change year-round," Tromanhauser said.

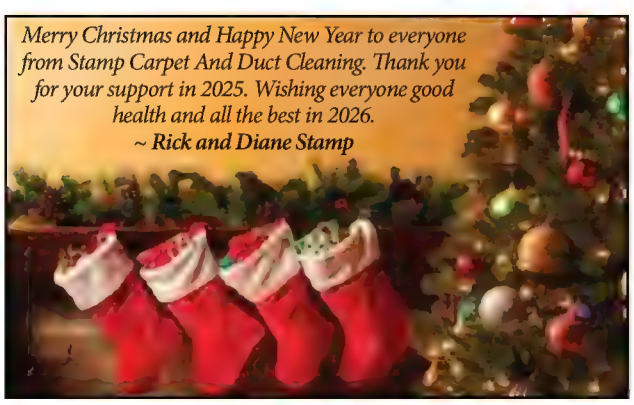
Places for People president Susan Tromanhauser said this year's holiday campaign is raising money to maintain tenants' roofs. *Submitted.*



Biggest little parade

Jolly old St. Nick made one of his final pre-Christmas pitstops in Haliburton County Dec. 14, braving the cold weather for an appearance at the Wilberforce Santa Claus parade. Residents lined up in front of the arena and community centre on Loop Road, eager to catch a glimpse of the big guy. Afterwards, families were welcomed inside Lloyd Watson Community Centre for a meet-and-greet with Santa, with all children leaving with a gift, courtesy of Highlands East township and the Ward 3 volunteer fire department. *(Mike Baker)*

Top left: Two of Santa's helpers promoting a party at the North Pole. Top middle: Tupper T. Turtle and a local reindeer provided greetings on behalf of Highlands East township. Top right: Wren and Isla Dacey could barely contain their excitement while waiting for Santa's arrival. Bottom left: Haliburton and District Lions Club member Mary Lawr waves to parade-goers. Bottom middle: Santa Claus makes his way down Loop Road. Bottom right: It was a family outing for the Stevens and Barry clan – dad Carter Stevens, mom Sherri-Lynn Barry, grandma Lisa Barry, and kids William, Mia and Hunter all had a blast. *Photos by Michah Wilson.*



To our friends near & dear at Christmastime...

As another holiday season comes dashing in, we'd like to pause and wish all of our customers and neighbours here in town a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Friends like you make us grateful to be part of this fine community, and we thank you for your generous support.

Best Wishes & Happy Holidays!

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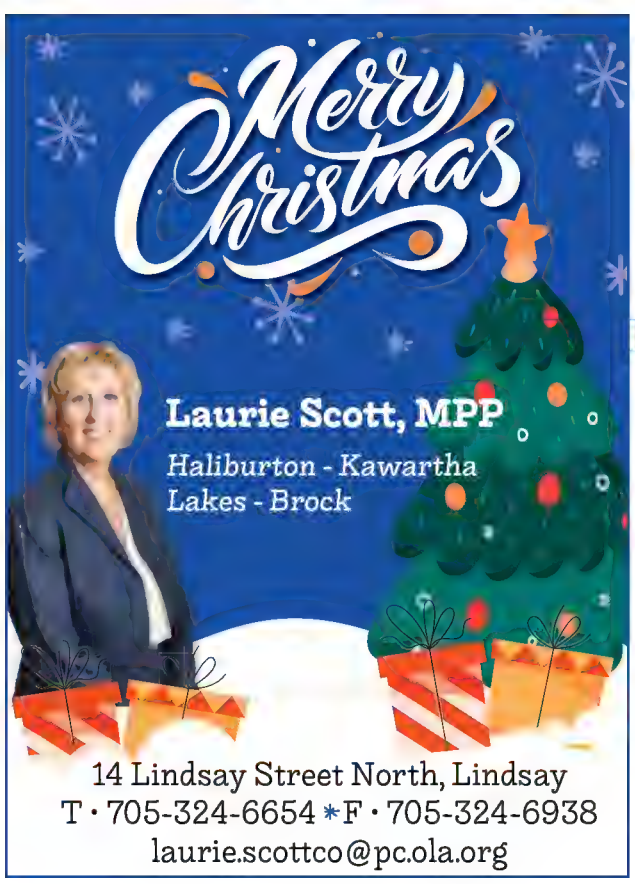
Makers paradise

A new Christmas tradition has sprung up in Minden Hills, with the first annual Keller's Winter Yule Market running at the Lion's Hall Dec. 13. There were over a dozen vendors on-hand, with County-based makers showing off their talents en masse. Items available included: handmade jewellery, charcuterie boards, crocheted items, paintings and other pieces of art, candles, body products and more. The guest of honour was family matriarch Haze Keller, who recently celebrated her 93rd birthday – the Kellers say the event was organized to help bring people together over the holidays and showcase the talented creators that live in the Highlands. *(Mike Baker)*

Top left: There were four generations of Kellers at Saturday's Yule Market – here are three of them, left, Carolyn Keller, her daughter Taylor Keller, grandson Dominic MacDonald, and Victoria Jones. Top middle: Bonnie Marshall shows off her crocheted creations. Top right: Brian Keller was selling his handcrafted cutting boards. Bottom left: Christine McDonald of Organic Me Skin Care said there was a strong crowd at Saturday's show. Bottom middle: Haydee Billing was selling 3D-printed designs. Bottom right: Local sourdough queen Rebecca Wallace had no shortage of baked goods. *Photos by Michah Wilson.*

Fired up for Christmas

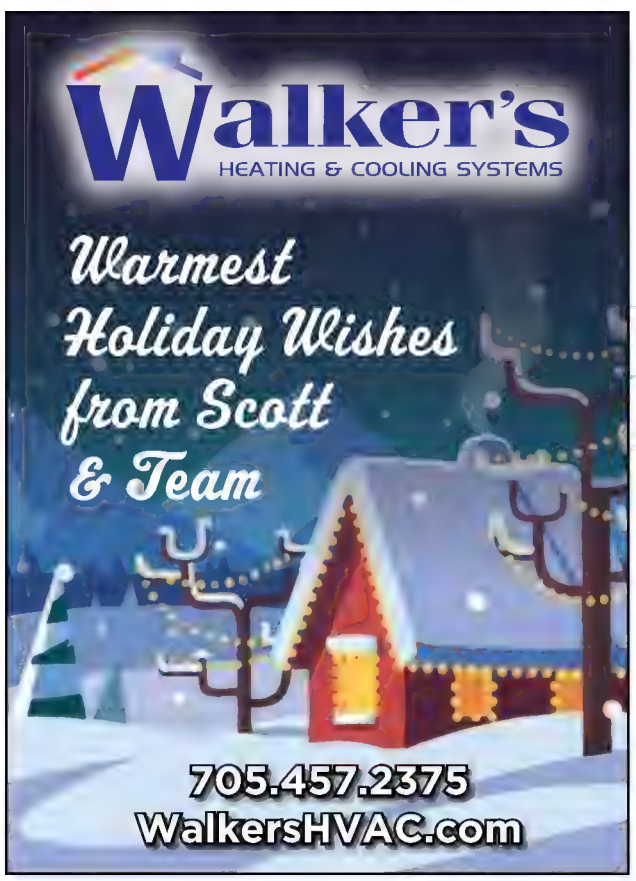
The Minden Hills Fire Department set up its annual toy drive at Canadian Tire Dec. 7. Pictured, left to right, Stephen Hertel, Jordan Hunt and Jarrod Lawrance. *Submitted.*



A true community table

The SIRCH Bistro in Haliburton village will be opening its doors to the public again Dec. 25, offering a free family-style Christmas dinner to the community for the second straight year. SIRCH's Laurie McCaig said anyone is welcome. "Come as you are, there's no need to pre-register. If you're feeling lonely over the holidays or a turkey dinner is just out of reach for you this year, we can help," McCaig said. "Nobody should be alone for Christmas - we want this to feel like a true community table." Doors open at noon, with food to be served until 6 p.m. There will be turkey and potatoes with all the fixings and dessert to follow. The dinner is sponsored by Todd's Independent, who is donating all the food. Donations are welcome but never expected, McCaig said. SIRCH launched this program in 2024, with 40 to 50 people attending. "Last year, we felt the need was there and this year the need is even greater," McCaig said. *(Mike Baker)*

Above: Kitchen volunteers, Guy Caissie and Anna Friessen, will be busy at the SIRCH Bistro Dec. 25, serving a complimentary Christmas dinner to the community. *Submitted.*



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Don Simpson
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Matt Allore
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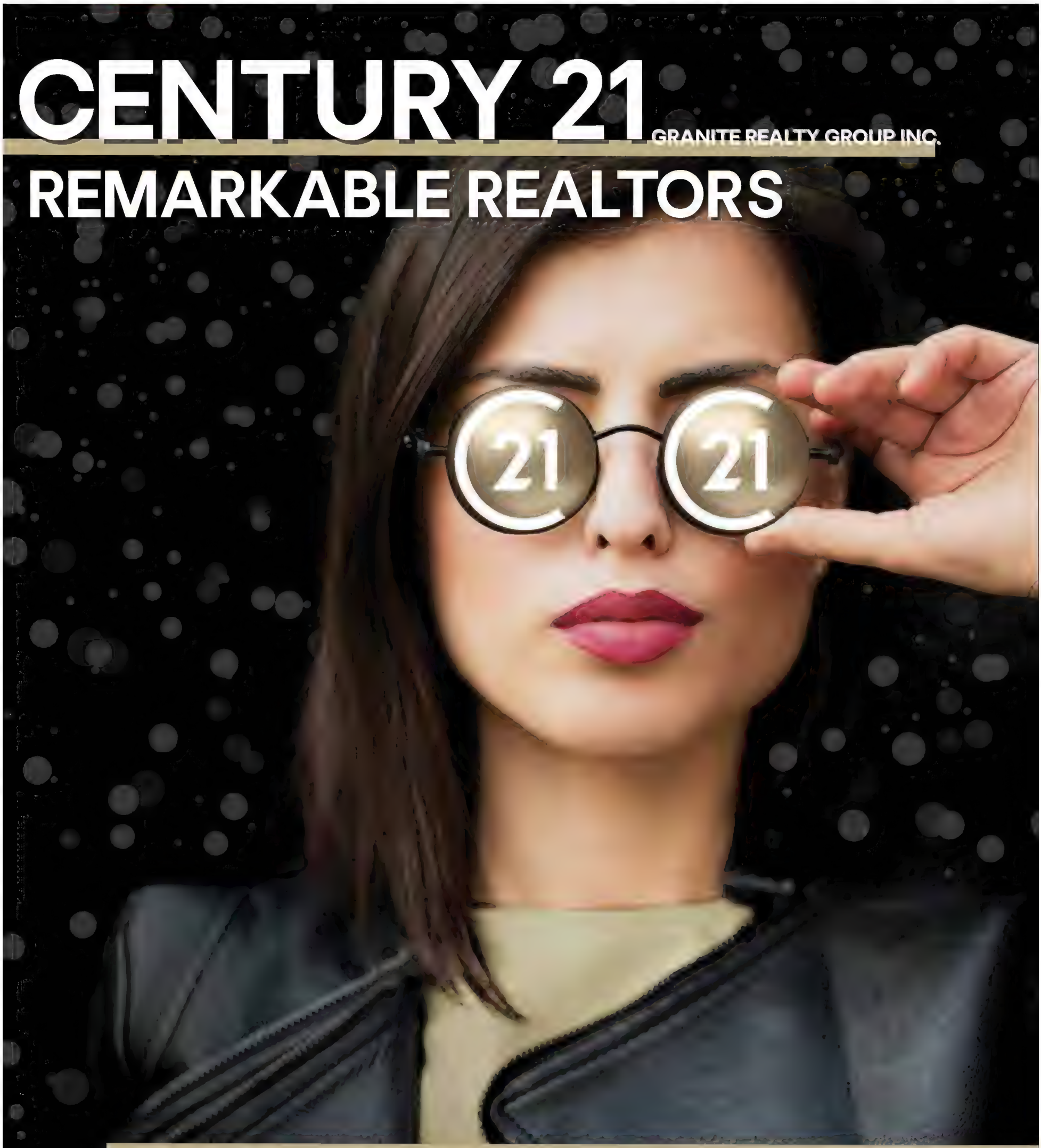

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'Tis the season to ski

It was opening day at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride Dec. 13 with Haliburton County's premiere ski hill kicking off the 2025-26 winter season in style. There were people of all ages and abilities on the slopes, with a healthy amount of snow – both fresh and artificial – leading to smooth runs again and again. *(Mike Baker)*

Top left: David and Leslie Currie were excited to get out on their skis again. Top right: Siblings Henry and Adelson Cooper kitted out in matching ski gear. Middle: The pro shop was open for business, with staffers Baylie Stover, Melissa Cooper and Sheila Rowell all smiles. Bottom: The slopes were bustling for opening day. *Photos by Michah Wilson.*

Highlander events

Radio round-up

The phones were ringing off the hook at MooseFM Dec. 12 as the Haliburton radio station held its annual holiday-time Radiothon in support of the County's three major food bank organizations. For 12 hours Friday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., volunteers manned landlines at the Highland Street location, accepting hundreds of donations from the community. All in, the radiothon raked in $65,233, with the money to be distributed equally among the 4Cs Food Bank in Haliburton, Central Food Network in Highlands East, which runs food banks in Cardiff and Wilberforce, and the Minden Community Food Centre. The three organizations confirmed 580 families have registered for holiday hampers this year, with packages or gift cards being distributed this week.

Top: MooseFM radio host Rick Lowes and Central Food Network's Tina Jackson have some fun on the air. Bottom: Bessie Sullivan, a volunteer at the 4Cs in Haliburton, flashes a smile while taking a donation over the phone. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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Highlander events

Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, December 24 7pm

Eagle Lake Community Church
2605 Eagle Lake Road

All are welcome to join us for Christmas carols and readings.

The Anglican Parish of Minden, Kinmount, Maple Lake

The Christmas Season 2025

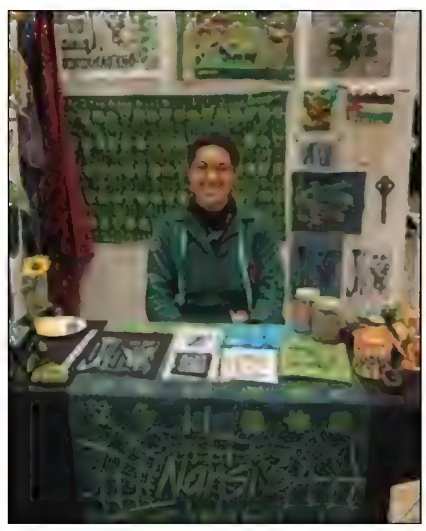
Sunday, December 21, 2025
9:00am - St. James, Kinmount - Morning Prayer
9:00am - St. Peter's, Maple Lake - Holy Eucharist
10:45am - St. Paul's, Minden - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 21, 2025
4:00pm - St. Paul's, Minden - Early Christmas Eve Service / Pageant
5:30pm - St. Paul's, Minden - Early Christmas Eve Dinner

Christmas Eve Services
1:00pm - St. Peter's Maple Lake - Holy Eucharist
3:00pm - St. James, Kinmount - Holy Eucharist
5:00pm - St. Paul's, Minden - Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day
10:30am - St. Paul's, Minden - Holy Eucharist
12:00pm - St. Paul's, Minden - Christmas Dinner

Everyone is welcome!
RSVP for dinner - 705-286-2541



Students share

There was a little something for all arts enthusiasts to enjoy as the Haliburton School of Art + Design (HSAD) held its end-of-semester 'Wrap it Up' student exhibition Dec. 13. Dozens of students pitched up in the Great Hall, showcasing handcrafted items pieced together from skills learned on-campus in the ceramics, fibre arts and visual and creative arts programs. "Every program brings its own tools, materials and traditions to the room, which makes 'Wrap it Up' feel like a walk through many creative worlds at once," said HSAD. "Expect everything from sculptural and functional pieces to personal, exploratory work that captures a student's evolving cycle."

Top: Ishtar Warda had a lot of fun completing the fall pottery class. Bottom left: Andrea Lee cups a hand to her regular-sized ear while showing off her piece 'Listen', an oversized ear made from different fibres and textiles. Bottom middle: Megan Ross had her eye on HSAD's fibre arts program for some time before enrolling for the fall semester. Bottom right: Nat Turinbull has launched her own business 'Nansi's Web' to sell some of the pieces she completed during the fall fibre arts program. *Photos by Michah Wilson.*

Christmas Eve Service
HALIBURTON PASTORAL CHARGE
DECEMBER 24 – 7:00 P.M.

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Highlander events

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Celebrating 91 Years of Community Service: A Family Tradition in Carnarvon

As the holiday season settles over the snowy hamlet of Carnarvon, Ontario, one family-owned business continues a tradition that has supported the community for nine decades. Thomas Contracting has been a dependable winter presence - helping residents safely navigate the roads of the Algonquin Highlands.

Founded in 1934 by Francis Thomas, the company has grown from a small ice-cutting and logging-access operation into a respected snow-clearing service with a full fleet of equipment. Through every stage of growth, the Thomas family has upheld the same values Francis instilled: hard work, commitment, and a deep love for their community.

For the Thomas', winter is more than a season - it's a chance to support neighbours. "My family might be one of the few that really love winter," says office manager Britt Thomas. "Clearing driveways or making sure people can get out safely, we take pride in what we do."

With multiple operators per route and seasonal packages, Thomas Contracting continues to evolve while treating snowplowing as serious, essential work.

As the community gathers to celebrate Christmas, Thomas Contracting plays a vital role in keeping holiday festivities on track. Families can travel to holiday gatherings and enjoy the beauty of the snowy landscape knowing that their driveway or private road have been carefully serviced.

There have been many occasions when Keith, the owner, has started plowing as early as 3 a.m. to ensure all contracted private roads are cleared for customers heading to important events. He often steps in himself so more of the team can be at home with their families, making memories.

Looking ahead, the Thomas family remains committed to innovation and improvement. With multiple operators per route, seasonal packages, and after hours assistance. Thomas Contracting takes snowplowing seriously.

This holiday season, let us honour the legacy of snowplow operators all around, their families and the countless hours they've dedicated to snow clearing, ensuring that joy and safety prevail on the roads throughout this winter season for us all.

Happy Holidays
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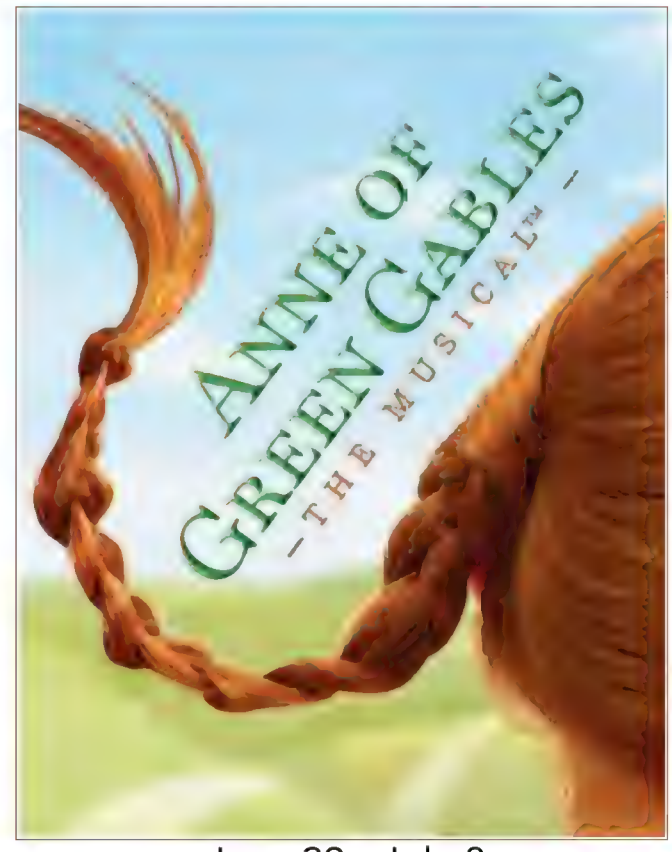
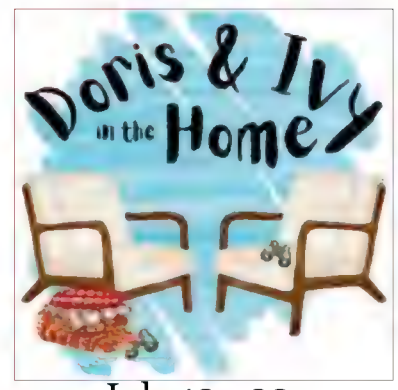


June 29 - July 8



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July 27 - 31

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Huskies forward Carson Durnin flies down the ice in a 6-2 win over the Aurora Tigers Dec. 12. *Photo courtesy of OJHL Images.*

Huskies streak hits five

By Mike Baker

With a pair of Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) match ups to come before the Christmas break, Haliburton County Huskies head coach Jordan Bailey is challenging his team to secure two more wins and extend their winning streak to seven games.

The bench boss has overseen an impressive turnaround in recent weeks – while the Huskies started the year with just two wins from nine games, they have rebounded with 15 wins, seven losses and one tie since, cementing themselves among the playoff hopefuls in the league's East Conference.

It's been another perfect week for the team, who rallied off an impressive 6-2 road win over the Aurora Tigers Dec. 12 before pummelling the Cobourg Cougars 8-2 in Cobourg Dec. 15. They host the Oakville Blades Dec. 18 (7 p.m. puck drop) before travelling to Lindsay to take on the Muskies Dec. 19.

Currently on a five-game winning streak, the blue and white are holding down sixth place in the standings – one point back of the Wellington Dukes with two fewer games played and three back of the Pickering Panthers in fourth and the Newmarket Hurricanes in third.

With the team potting 14 goals in its past two games, Bailey said his side is firing on all cylinders.

"It's been a nice little stretch – we're getting production from everyone on the team, which makes the room really happy. Everyone is getting their cookies right now, which is great, but we need to maintain our focus and not get carried away. We can't let our highs get too high," Bailey said.

Alternate captain Isaac Larmand stole all the headlines against the Tigers, notching his third hat-trick of the season. He opened the scoring after 70 seconds, assisted by Brody Coe and Nate Taylor, while also scoring the Huskies' fourth and fifth goals.

Christopher Brydges also tickled the twine twice, with Julius Da Silva wrapping the scoring late in the third. Taylor had three assists, Coe and Ryan Gosse had two, with Nic Ferrante, Carter Petrie, Ronen Macfarlane, Kaiden Thatcher and Josh Denes all chipping in with one.

After Larmand followed up with three more points, this time all assists, in the Cobourg rout on Monday, Bailey said he's happy for the 19-year-old, who has taken an offensive step in his third year with the Huskies.

"He's always been a very good leader in the room and now he's getting rewarded after putting in the work to improve. It's been nice to see him getting more and more confident – any time you have a player and character of that calibre, who is predominantly a team-first guy getting some individual stats, you feel really happy for them," Bailey said.

The game against the Cougars was competitive for about three minutes – Coe scored at 1:13, Taylor added a second at 1:47 and Mike Mardula made it a three-goal game at 3:03. Brydges and Gosse added some more gloss to the scoreline, scoring at 12:20 and 19:19 of the opening frame.

Gosse and Petrie scored the team's sixth and seventh goals, either side of Cobourg's two tallies in the second period, with Lewis Hergaarden finishing the scoring 43 seconds into the final frame. The Huskies powerplay was potent throughout, scoring in four-out-of-six opportunities.

"Guys are just understanding the league a little more now. The message has stayed the same – we want to play north and fast, keeping pressure in the offensive zone and getting pucks on net. The guys have all been delivering on our systems really well," Bailey said.

With back-to-back games against Oakville and Lindsay coming up and two more before the new year – the Huskies host the Mississauga Chargers Dec. 29 (7 p.m. puck drop) and Lindsay again Dec. 31 (2 p.m. puck drop) – Bailey said his team needs to take things one match-up at a time.

"What happened last game is done with. We have to move on to the next one and make sure we're not being cocky and sticking to our plan," the coach said. "We're looking at the standings and everyone is in the mix, we've got to keep winning hockey games and put ourselves in as good a position as possible for the new year."

Home of the Highland Storm

The Highland Storm U13 rep team won the International Silver Stick tournament in Wasaga Beach Dec. 13-14. *Submitted.*

U13 Storm take gold at Silver Stick tournament

The Highland Storm U13 rep team competed in the International Silver Stick tournament in Wasaga Beach Dec. 13 and 14. Facing an out-of-the-ordinary schedule with several late games, it was difficult to determine whether the timing helped or hindered the team's performance throughout the tournament.

The team went 3–0 in round-robin play, earning victories over the Aurora Tigers, Clearview Canucks, and Orillia Terriers. A strong 8-3 win in the semifinal on Sunday against the Halton Hills River Kings advanced the Storm to the championship game, setting up a final showdown against their rivals, the Sturgeon Lake Thunder.

In the final game, the Storm outplayed their opposition with strong, all-around play from the entire team. The final score was 6–3, securing the victory and locking in the Storm's spot at the International Silver Stick Finals, set to take place Jan. 23–25 in Forest. Both goaltenders, Mason Bishop and Liam Scheffee, shared the crease over the weekend and were strong backbones for the team, providing steady and reliable play whenever called upon. *(Submitted)*

STARS of the WEEK

CHASE CASEY

Shows relentless pressure. His speed created problems for the opposition, leading to several scoring opportunities.

AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM

Strong work along the boards and consistent net-front presence paid off in a big way, as he reached double digits in points.

REED BROWN

Commitment to responsible play helped shut down scoring chances and created momentum in key moments.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire

SCORE BOARD

Dec. 9
U11 CarQuest Minden vs. Sturgeon 5-1 W
U15 The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs. Brock 4-3 W

Dec. 12
U15 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Newcastle 1-1 T
U18 A&W Haliburton vs. Kawartha 8-1 W
U11 CarQuest Minden vs. Woodville 10-0 W

Dec. 13
U11 CarQuest Minden vs. Manvers 10-0 W
U9MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs. Lindsay 18-1 L
U13 Casey's Water Wells & Geothermal vs. Kawartha
7-1 W

Dec. 14
U13 Casey's Water Wells & Geothermal vs. Manvers 5-1 W

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed. Bridge at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., **Saturday and Sunday closed.**
Upcoming events: Drum circle Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. There's darts Dec. 22 and 29 at 7 p.m. Cost is $5 per player.
Tuesday: closed, special events only
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Dec. 19 is wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Meat draw Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. Dec. 20 is trivia night at 7 p.m. $5/player.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.

Third Thursday of the month is the executive meeting at 7 p.m. and general meeting at 7:30 p.m. Third Sunday of the month is the ladies auxiliary meeting.

EVENTS

Dec. 18, 1 to 3 p.m. Haliburton Highlands Writers and Editors Network meeting at the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Gather and meet members, read stories, general news. For more information contact Kay Millard at 705-286-6635. Meetings run the third Thursday of each month.

Dec. 19, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the magic of the season with a special Holiday Storytime at the Minden Hills and Dysart et al libraries. Enjoy festive stories, cheerful songs and plenty of winter wonder. After storytime, children can stay to create a simple seasonal craft to take home. Perfect for young children.

Dec. 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Haliburton County Public Library is running winter solstice drop-in crafts activities at branches in Wilberforce, Stanhope, Dysart et al and Minden Hills. Make your own tealight luminary to brighten wintery nights, while supplies last. No registration required.

Dec. 20, 4 to 6 p.m. Sir Sam's Ski/Ride is hosting its annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Come out to enjoy live music with 'Heart & Soul', an ugly Christmas sweater party and good cheer. It's the annual Ski with Santa Day on the hill Dec. 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dec. 20, 5 to 9 p.m. The Dominion Hotel is hosting its annual Christmas dinner and carol singing event There will be fresh-roasted turkey, masked potatoes, Elli's famous corn casserole, fall vegetables and all the fixings. Join Shawn on the keyboard for some carol singing afterwards. Reservations recommended.

Dec. 20, 7 p.m. The Wilberforce Legion is hosting Christmas-themed trivia. Bring your team of 2-6 players or join a team with space. Cost is $5 per player. Cash payout to the winning team. Get those ugly Christmas sweaters out for your chance to win a prize. Chips and dips available for purchase.

Dec. 27, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Celebrate Kwanzaa at a special family storytime party at the Minden Hills library. Enjoy stories, songs and crafts that honour the seven principles of Kwanzaa – like creativity and working together. Families will learn about the meaning of the celebration through storytelling, music and hands-on fun. No registration required.

Dec. 29, 5:30-10 p.m. Boshkung Keg Curling at the Minden Curling Club. Cost is $20 per person, two people to a team. Live music from Cam Galloway between 6 and 10 p.m. Sign up at boshkungbrewing.com.

Jan. 8, 4:15 p.m. Those Other Movies returns with a screening of The Marching Band at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The francophone flick tells the story of an acclaimed orchestra conductor who, after learning about a cancer diagnosis, is united with a brother he didn't know existed. Tickets are $10 at the door. A second screening is set for 7:15 p.m.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.

Festive Highlands frolic

By Lisa Gervais

There's plenty of things to do between now and when *The Highlander* resumes publication on Jan. 8.

Let's start with the annual tree, and tower, lighting hosted at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride. There will be live music with Heart and Soul, an ugly Christmas sweater party après ski, and good cheer. It's this Saturday, Dec. 20 from 4-6 p.m. at 1054 Liswood Rd.

Also on Dec. 20, there's a Christmas dinner and carol sing at the Dominion Hotel in Minden. They'll have fresh roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, turkey dressing, Elli Chamberlin's famous corn casserole, fall vegetables, and all the fixings. Join with Shawn Chamberlin on the keyboard and raise your voice to make this time of year festive. Saturday 5-9 p.m. at 113 Bobcaygeon Rd. Reservations recommended.

The Wilberforce Legion is another option this coming weekend. There's Christmas-themed trivia at 7 p.m. People are encouraged to bring a team of two to six players, or join a team. Ugly Christmas sweaters are encouraged with prizes on the line. It is $5 per player with a cash payout for the trivia winners. They'll have chips and dips available for purchase. The legion is at 1007 Burleigh Rd.

The action heads back to Sir Sam's Ski/Ride on Sunday, Dec. 21 as the local ski hill encourages patrons to dress in their finest Mr. or Mrs. Claus suit and get a free lift ticket for the day. It goes this Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

After Christmas, Carl Dixon will provide the après ski tunes Dec. 27 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Across the road, it will be Gord Kidd and Friends performing at Sir Sam's Inn and Resort Dec. 27 from 8-10 p.m.

On Dec. 28, the highly successful Boshkung Keg Curling is back at the Minden Curling Club. It's $20 per person, two people to a team. There will be live music from Cam Galloway from 6-10 p.m. The event goes from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Sign up at boshkungbrewing.com

The highly successful Boshkung Keg Curling is back at the Minden Curling Club this weekend. *File.*

New Year's Eve

Ring in 2026 at Sir Sam's Inn. Their New Year's Eve celebration features a multi-course dinner, champagne toast at midnight, and the magic of Eagle Lake in winter. Wake up New Year's Day to breakfast overlooking snow-covered landscapes – the perfect fresh start. This is their most popular event of the year and space is limited. Book at 705-754-2188.

Sandy Lane Resort is also hosting a New Year's Eve party. This event will feature DJ Chris Evans, a cash bar, fireworks, outdoor and indoor entertainment. Go to sandylaneresort.com for details.

The Wilberforce Legion is hosting a New Year's Eve dance party. Tickets are $20 for members and $30 for non-members. Starts at 8 p.m., and food will be provided. Tickets can be picked up at the legion.

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HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator

Under the oversight of the Director, this vacant full-time position conducts research and supports program outcomes through the application of cross-sector partnerships, collective impact planning and principles, and community engagement and training. Further, this position supports the communication efforts of community service providers to raise awareness among residents of available support programs.

The successful applicant will have completed post-secondary education in a related discipline and possess a minimum four years of progressive experience. Applicants with a comparable combination of education and experience will also be considered.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than January 2, 2026, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

HELP WANTED

STEDMAN'S MALL – looking for a cleaner, part time, 3 to 5 hours per week, flexible hours. $75. To $100. Per week. Please contact Sam 416-294-9260

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EVENT

EVENT - STAINED GLASS WORKSHOPS from beginner up. Learn the art of Stained Glass in one or two day classes.. Call Tom at 705-286-3628

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle

NOTICE

St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) All are welcome.

HELP WANTED

Minden Community Food Centre

WE ARE HIRING

Manager, Minden Community Food Centre

We are an accredited food bank under Food Banks Canada and are looking for a manager to run our operations in Minden, Ontario. This full-time position requires an individual with

- Proven experience in nonprofit or community leadership, ideally in food insecurity or social services
- Strong management, organizational, decision making and customer service skills
- Good verbal and written communication skills and familiarity with social media
- Ability to navigate difficult situations and provide guidance as needed relating to visitors, staff, and volunteers
- Ability to multitask, delegate, and work under pressure at certain times
- Possess excellent communication and relationship-building abilities
- A commitment to equity, inclusion, and community development

A detailed job description can be found at www.mindencommunityfoodcentre.ca/joinus. The annual salary of $48,300 is based on 35 hours per week.

The application deadline is January 15, 2026. Please send your resume and cover letter to: chair@mindencommunityfoodcentre.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

CONTACT US TODAY!

TheHighlander

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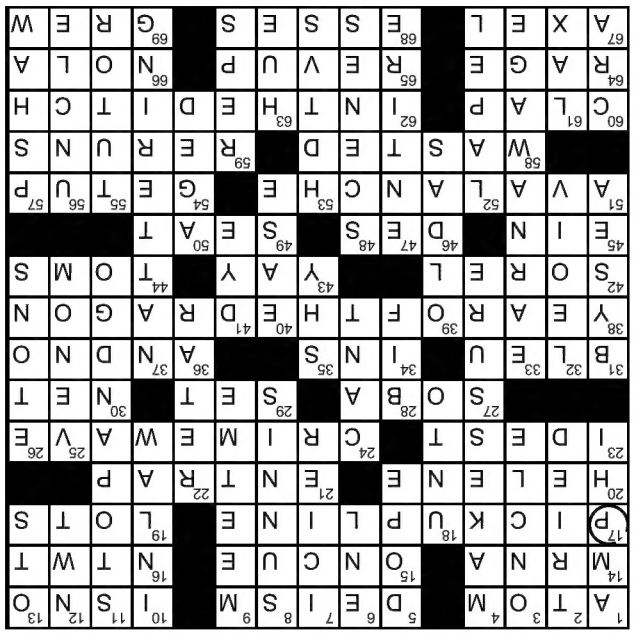

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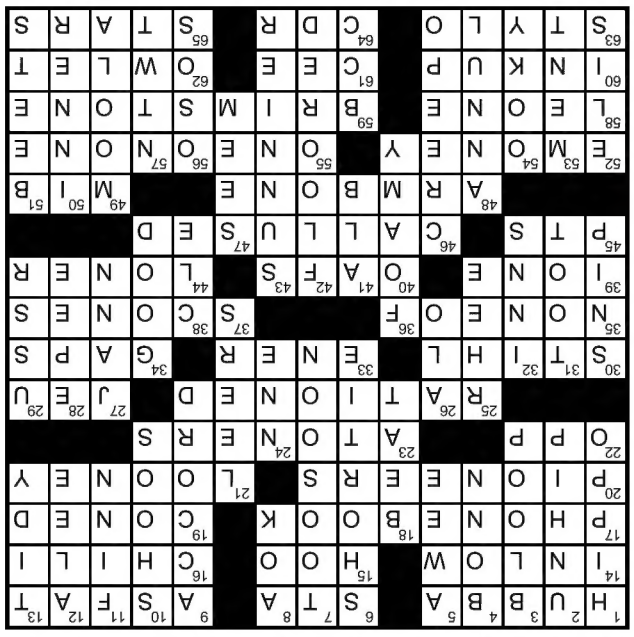

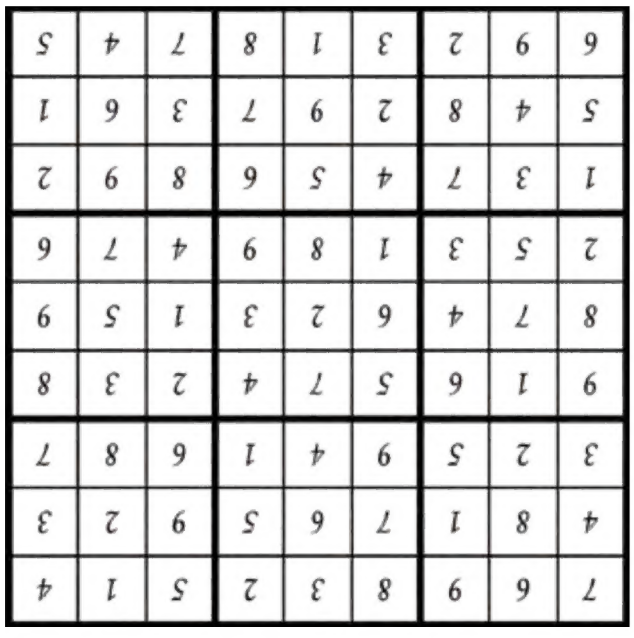

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Cecil Wesley Bailey

Cec, Dad, Papa (uncle Bill from Tory Hill) was born on July 16, 1924 to W.O. Bailey and Elsie Bailey (Martin) passed away peacefully on December 4, 2025 at the age 101. Cecil was predeceased by his wife Irene (2016), and his son Clark (1990). He is lovingly remembered by daughter Linda Pearl (Bob),his grandchildren Curtis and Tim (Kris) and great-grandchildren, Cecily, Max, Levi, and Adalea. He was also predeceased by his siblings, Merrill, Lloyd, Lorne, and Lois. Ever remembered by his extended family the Bailey's, Cruikshank's, and Wood's.

A long time resident of Halliburton Cec was a World War II veteran who served with the RCAF from 1942 to 1945 taking part in the landing at Juno Beach and the liberation of the Netherlands. He carried those memories with humility and a quiet pride throughout his life. A jack of all trades, he built every home he lived in, he was a proud member of the Halliburton Royal Canadian Legion. Cec married his beloved Irene and favourite dance partner in 1949 and together they created a home known for it's always open door, to friends, family, neighbors, and even the on duty OPP officers would stop by for coffee, conversation, and Cec's antics. Remembered for his love of vintage country music, his dance moves, and his trademark, "Here's to your sister" toasts.

As he takes his final bow after a long rich life filled with music, mischief, and love, we send him off with a country style, Good Night.

So here's to you, Cec as your final song plays low, you've hung up your dancing shoes and your hammer too, and it's time for you to go. We will keep your story spinning like your old cassette show, till we meet again, keep dancing on the far side of the radio. Online condolences at www.tompkinsfuneralhome.ca

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In Loving Memory of

Frederick "Fred" Tufts

(Resident of Kirkfield)

With deep love and heavy hearts, the family of Frederick "Fred" Tufts announces his passing on the 8th of December 2025 in his 75th year.

Beloved son of Edward "Ted" and Jean Tufts (predeceased). Frederick is fondly remembered by his siblings, Brian "Ted" (Marilynne), David "Dave", Ronald, Rose, and Dorothy (Rob). Predeceased by his brother Robert (Anne) and his sister, Barbara (James). Also lovingly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Frederick owned his own concrete construction business for many years before finally retiring to become a farmer. It was on his farm that he tended to his cattle, while also occasionally working independently as a snowplow operator. Frederick also had an adventurous side, with his love of side-by-side vehicles (UTVs).

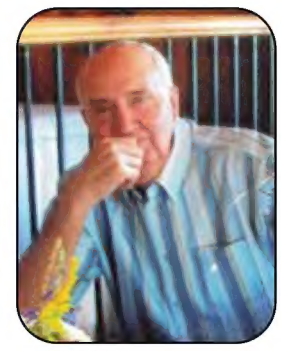
Visitation & Celebration of Life

Friends and family were invited to call for a visitation in Fred's honour on Friday, December 12, 2025, from 1 – 3 o'clock at the **COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 6644 Hwy #35, Coboconk, ON K0M 1K0 (705) 454-3913. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations made to the Salvation Army Canada, Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada, or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

Coboconk Community Funeral Home

In Loving Memory of

Verne Gartshore



Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home on Monday, December 15, 2025 at the age of 86.

Beloved husband and soulmate to Marlin for 62 years. Brother-in-law to Lois Barry (Junior – predeceased), Karl Upton (Terri), Bernice Cooper-Johnson (Keith), Roger Cooper (Tammy) and predeceased by Morgan Upton (Pat), Murray Upton (Barb), Bernard Upton, Allan Upton (Beverly) and Linda Hamilton (Jim). Brother to Don (deceased – 1978), Craig (Margaret), Gary (Pat), and fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Verne spent 50 years working at Vasey Insurance, he had a love for horses and cared for many.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Friday, December 19, 2025 from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm and on Saturday, December 20, 2025 from 11:00 am until the time of the Funeral Service in the chapel at 12:00 o'clock noon. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the Funeral Home. Spring Interment at Maple Lake Cemetery, Maple Lake Ontario.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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The Haliburton United Church is looking to contract for cleaning services.

The Church needs a person who is efficient, professional, and provides cleaning services when scheduled. The Church requires approximately 5 hours of cleaning weekly.

Cleaning will include the central Church, the kitchen, the washrooms and other duties as required. The person will have to work around the Church schedule. The person will have to provide their own transportation to the Church.

Interested persons should provide a resume to lynne.hpcharge@gmail.com

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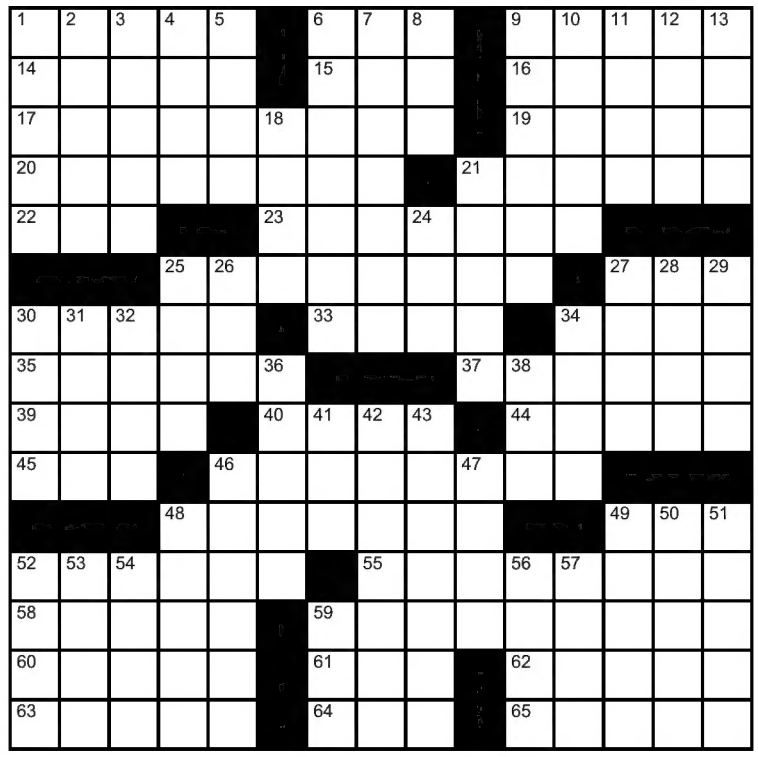
Highlander puzzles

Up Close and Personal

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

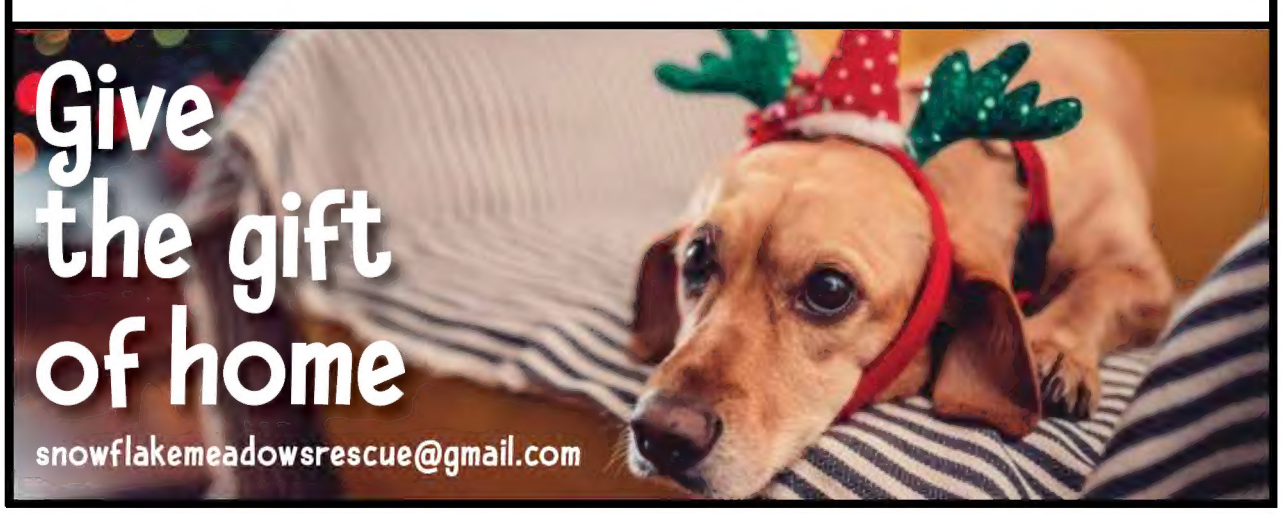


Across

1 ___ Bubba bubble gum
6 VIA stop
9 Equally liposomal
14 Geared right down, as a semi
15 It follows yoo
16 Potluck potful
17 Volume with numbered pages?
19 Shaped like a dunce cap
20 Ones forging new land
21 ___ Toons (animated series)
22 Cop unit based in Orillia: Abbr.
23 Penitents
25 Allotted during wartime, as food
27 Game, for Gaston
30 Husqvarna chainsaw rival
33 Power, as electrical or solar: Abbr.
34 Has a "senior moment"
35 Words with "your business" or "the above"
37 Scottish quick breads
39 Actress Skye of "Say Anything..."
40 Bull-in-china-shop types
44 Soloist?
45 Scoreboard tally: Abbr.
46 Hardened with work, as hands
48 Humerus or radius
49 1997 Will Smith blockbuster, for short
52 Clickable cash
55 Like a private conversation ... or how eight word pairs in this puzzle are arranged
58 Sierra ___, Africa
59 Part of a fiery sermon
60 Smudge with a leaky Bic
61 So-so, on a report card
62 Wide-eyed bird baby
63 Pierrefonds pen
64 Drive insert from Memorex
65 "Great work!" stickers

Down

1 Weighty wallower
2 Square, in the '60s
3 Weak baseball hit
4 Beethoven's birthplace
5 Just ___ bit (not much)
6 Skimpy nightgown
7 "Are we not joking about that yet?"
8 Tickety-boo
9 Meech Lake ___ (1987 pact)
10 Waves away
11 Helsinki native
12 On the safe side, at sea
13 Prepare for guests, with "up"
18 Soufflé recipe direction
21 Wolfish looks
24 Calgary-to-Edmonton dir.
25 '50s South Korean leader
26 Greeting on el telefono
27 "Insensitive" singer Arden
28 "Touché" sayer's sword
29 Country in a Beatles title
30 Quick scissor cut
31 Tugboat signal
32 Roadside lodgings
34 Word with grief or gravy
36 Big-headed at the bar
38 Key, in Québec
41 White altar attire
42 Put the pedal to the metal, with "it"
43 Better for tanning, say
46 Sleazeball
47 Appear (to be)
48 Declare void
49 Scratch in a piggy bank?
50 Kind of tube for floating
51 Borscht veggies
52 "___ Coming" (1969 Three Dog Night hit)
53 Common noun suffix
54 "The Addams Family" theme song word
56 Bears: Sp.
57 Food label abbr.
59 Invisibly share an email



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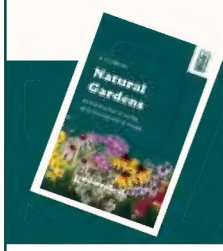

For a free guide to
natural gardens in
Haliburton County,
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3						6		
9		6						8
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1 | 2

Gelert Road
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2 | 2

Buckslide Road
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3 | 5

Kawartha Lakes
$1,479,000
MLS X12182250
3 | 3

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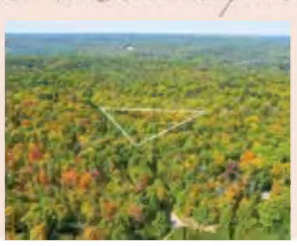

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$85,000
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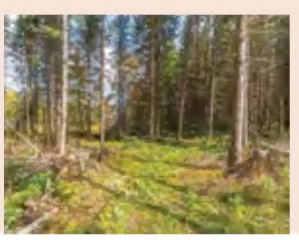

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